

GEARING GATOR



200 N. Carney Drive – St. Clair, MI 48079 - (810) 676-1650 – Attendance Line (810) 676.1666 – www.ecsd.us

Be Safe



Be Respectful



Be Responsible



A Thank You from our School

We'd like to thank the parents who take the time to read the *Gearing Gator* each month. This monthly newsletter serves as an important source of vital and timely school information for both parents and students. We make great efforts to ensure that all parents are informed of the school happenings.

GIVE US A SMILE!

All students will be photographed on our Spring Picture Day, Friday, February 24th. For the best photograph, our school photographer suggests bright colors and, of course your *SMILE!*



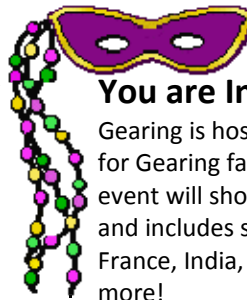
**February 17-21, 2012
School will be closed.**

Gator Glimpses

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February 2012

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You are Invited!

Gearing is hosting its first International Carnival, a free event for Gearing families on February 9th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. The event will showcase cultural activities from around the world and includes such countries as Germany, Spain, Mexico, France, India, Italy, Japan, Thailand, Australia and many more!

Students will have the opportunity to sample international foods, make a variety of craft items, play games, listen to stories, and play instruments popular around the world.

You just might enjoy playing a game of bocce ball in Italy, tasting a spot of tea in England or making an Aboriginal bark painting in Australia! There's something for everyone!

Parents must accompany their children to this evening event.

Don't miss the excitement. An RSVP is required no later than February 1st. Make a reservation now for your family to attend.

For more information, contact Senorita Nowakowski at bnowakowski@ecsd.us.

WHEN DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE P.E.?

Do you know what day of the week your child's classroom is scheduled for P.E.?

Students must wear tennis shoes in order to participate in P.E. Class. Ask your child so they come prepared. We don't want them to miss their fitness activities!





A Message from our School Nurse

February is children's dental health month.

- Establish Good Oral Health Habits Early.**
 Increasingly, studies are linking oral health to good overall health. Children who make oral hygiene a part of their daily routine are establishing a habit that can help keep them healthy and smiling in the years to come. Attention to a few key concepts can help get kids on the right track to good oral health.
- Proper Brushing and Flossing is Key.**
 The American Dental Association recommends that children (and adults) brush their teeth twice a day (morning and bedtime) with fluoride toothpaste. A worn toothbrush doesn't clean as effectively, so toothbrushes should be changed every three to four months or more often if the bristles are frayed. Flossing daily helps prevent tooth decay and improves gum health by cleaning those hard to reach places between teeth.
- Regular Cleanings and Dental Visits**
 Regular dental care can help fight tooth decay, prevent cavities and identify if a child should see an orthodontist for an evaluation if braces are needed. Visiting a dentist every six months for oral exams, dental cleanings, and fluoride treatments is an essential part of maintaining children's oral health.
- Fluoride Treatments**
 Adults need to ensure children are getting the fluoride they need. Most drinking water in the United States is fluoridated, but with the prevalence of bottled water and soda these days, children need reminders to keep a regular brushing schedule at least twice a day. In addition, many dentists provide fluoride treatments to children during their regular dental visits.
- Wear Mouth Guards when Playing Sports**
 Mouth guards help to protect the active child's teeth and mouth. The American Dental Association advises that mouth guards should always be used when playing sports or engaging in any activity that could result in a blow to the mouth. A properly fitted mouth guard can help prevent broken teeth and injuries to the lips, tongue, face, or jaw. While mouth protectors are usually worn on the upper jaw, dentists may also recommend a lower jaw mouth guard for children who wear braces.

PENGUIN "COOL MATH" CHALLENGE

During the winter months of January and February, our Gearing Ambassadors have been taking a leadership role in challenging each of our third, fourth, and fifth grade students with the mastery of their multiplication tables.



The Penguin "Cool Math" Challenge helps support our school improvement goal for mathematics and offers an incentive to support classroom initiatives for the mastery of this important mathematics skill.

Each Friday students have been participating in the opportunity during lunch recess time to take a one-minute timed test on each of the multiplication tables.

Students are recognized for their accomplishments. The challenge continues through the month of February. Students who master all of the times tables will have their name posted on a penguin for display and will be invited to participate in an *Ice Cream Spectacular*.



Thank you, parents, for your enthusiasm and support in encouraging your child to study and participate. We look forward to recognizing our many "cool mathematicians".

BE COOL! KNOW YOUR FACTS!



Thank You A great big THANKS to all of our Jingle Bell Junction Elves! We had great participation from our parents showing true "Gearing Gator Christmas spirit". It was another successful year at Jingle Bell Junction! Volunteer elves included Jen Gunderson, Joy Luther, Dee Patsalis, Amy Wiegand, Lisa Jahn, Bonnie Barker, Shannon Furtah, Mary Ann Sepke, Lisa Glass, Dawn Kimberley, Tara Blank, Kim McCollum, Kaitlyn Ecarus, Athena Modrich, Wanda Knott, Jennifer DeWolf, Terri Cousino, Danielle Ledbetter, Meg Benson, Danielle Stilwell, Renee Gura, Lisa Ericson, Dawn Pokotello, Alicia Pokotello, Kristina Puwal, Alyson Askew, Lisa Fabian, Diane Greig and Missy Donaldson. We could not do it without you and we appreciate all of you!!

Watch for your child's Report Card Tuesday, February 7th!

Gators ROCK THE CLOCK!

As we mentioned in our January newsletter, the amount of time spent in class is one important aspect of your child's academic success.

We've spent the last month helping students learn the importance of punctuality. Our "Rock the Clock" Initiative has encouraged students to be in the classroom at the start of school when the bell rings at 8:35 a.m.

We've been recognizing the classrooms, with the fewest number of tardies.

A special congratulations to these classrooms:
Mrs. Alley, Mrs. DuBois, Mrs. Eitniew, Ms. Peterson and Mr. Larson

Thank you, parents, for helping our Gators Rock!



Kids Rock Parents Roll

SAVE THE DATE PARENT UNIVERSITY

March 3, 2012, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Raising a child isn't easy, and most people have to learn as they go along. Parent University can help. Find out what experts and other parents say about some of the issues you face. Learn about products and services available in St. Clair County.



For more information or to register: Call Shane Welch, St. Clair County RESA @ 810.455.4041

If your child will be absent from school, please call our attendance line before 9:00 a.m. @ 810.676.1666.

A NIGHT AT THE GRAMMYS!

Daddy/Daughter Dance

Friday, March 2, 2012 – 7:00-8:30 PM

\$10.00 per couple, \$3.00 each additional girl. Raffle tickets will be available the night of the event (3 for \$1.00)

RESERVATIONS & MONIES DUE FEBRUARY 16TH.



Happy
Valentine's
Day

All students in grades 1st – 5th will enjoy their class parties on Tuesday, February 14th.

Kindergarten classes will be having their parties on Friday, February 10th.

This is a special holiday for children and they LOVE exchanging valentines. If your child will be giving away valentine cards, please have him/her provide one for everyone in the class. Check with your child's teacher for specific information and possible classroom projects.

Valentine's Day at Gatorland Post Office

Consider surprising your child with a Valentine's Day card delivered to them by our Gatorland Post Office staff. Just drop your mail in the blue mailbox located just outside the media center door. All mail must have the student's full name and the correct classroom address with zip code, a return address, and a sticker or drawing in the upper right corner for a stamp.

Bring a smile to your child's face!

MRS. CRANDALL	700 EVERGLADES AVE.	MRS. LAPARL	100 GATOR LANE
MRS. JOHNSON	700 EVERGLADES AVE.	MRS. ALLEY	103 GATOR LANE
MRS. ROSS	700 EVERGLADES AVE.	MRS. BROSKY	101 GATOR LANE
MRS. EISEN	700 EVERGLADES AVE.	MRS. DUBOIS	106 SWAMP BLVD.
MRS. BRUCKNER	700 EVERGLADES AVE.	MRS. KEMP	109 SWAMP BLVD.
MS. CORNISH	127 GATOR LANE	MRS. EITNIEAR	108 SWAMP BLVD.
MRS. MANNINEN	121 CHOMP ST.	MRS. ROEHRING	104 SWAMP BLVD.
MRS. SULECKI	201 CHOMP ST.	MS. JOBBITT	112 EVERGLADES AVE.
MRS. DINGMAN	125 EVERGLADES AVE.	MS. PETERSON	114 EVERGLADES AVE.
MRS. KAMMER	125 EVERGLADES AVE.	MS. MCNEELY	118 EVERGLADES AVE.
MRS. ZOLLWEG	125 EVERGLADES AVE.	MR. LARSON	117 EVERGLADES AVE.
MS. NOWAKOWSKI	111 EVERGLADES AVE.	MRS. RANDOLPH	110 EVERGLADES AVE.
MRS. TOWLER	160 GATOR LANE	MRS. ASKEW	700 EVERGLADES AVE.
MR. MIKE	700 EVERGLADES AVE.	MRS. COLLIER	700 EVERGLADES AVE.
MRS. DECKER	700 EVERGLADES AVE.	MRS. SPENCER	700 EVERGLADES AVE.
MR. TOM	700 EVERGLADES AVE.	MRS. VERNIER	700 EVERGLADES AVE.
MRS. RABINE	102 GATOR LANE	MRS. ARFT	700 EVERGLADES AVE.
MS. ERDMAN	102 GATOR LANE	MRS. HOOVER	104 SWAMP BLVD.
MRS. BEAUVAIS	150 GATOR LANE	MRS. MYERS	104 SWAMP BLVD.

Inclement Weather & School Cancellation Information

Information regarding school delays and/or cancellations can be found on the East China website, www.ecsd.us or by calling the Inclement Weather Hotline @810.676.1101.



Radio and television stations will also post the information. Please do NOT call the school for school closing information.



NUTRITION NIBLETS

Food Focus - Yogurt

Low fat yogurt is a good source of protein and an excellent source of calcium you need for strong bones and teeth. Try plain low fat yogurt at home with a tasty topping for tacos and baked potatoes instead of fatty sour cream.

Reading Counts! Superstars



Mrs. Alley
Mrs. DuBois
Mrs. Roehring
Ms. Jobbitt
Ms. McNeely

"Go for the Gold"

The following classes were recognized for demonstrating outstanding participation and cooperation.

Ms. McNeely - Gym
Mrs. Beauvais M/W - Custodian
Mrs. Brosky - Media
Mrs. Roehring - Art
Mrs. Eitnrear - Spanish
Mrs. Brosky - Music



Cool Gators of the Month

Congratulations to the following students for being selected by their teacher as February's Gator of the Month.

Abigail Badke
Grace Barker
Malcolm Bassett
Bria Collins
AnnElise Eitnrear
Claire Freeland
Taylor Grasso

Hannah Grippe
Caleb Hitts
Trevor Klein
Payton Malcolm
Rylie Sidney
Logan Stilwell

Gearing PTO "We're Here for the Kids"

February 12th – Mother/Son Bowling Event

February 16th - Popcorn Sale to help offset the cost of field trips

February 27th – YUMMY! Don't miss our first PANCAKE DINNER. Watch for more information to come home soon.

Box Tops, Box Tops, and more Box Tops! We've been collecting thousands of box tops and we continue to collect them. Thank you for your support!

COMING IN MARCH

- March 2nd – Daddy/Daughter Dance
- March 8th – Science Fair/Ice Cream Social
- March 16th – CARNIVAL

OUR HARD AT WORK PTO BOARD

Matt Brooks, President
Annette Sturdy, Vice-President
Tara Blank, Secretary
MaryAnn Sepke, Secretary
Leslie Peterson, Treasurer
Rita McNeely, Teacher Rep
Lynn Eitnrear, Teacher Rep
Lynda Crandall, Principal



SPARKLE WITH SCHOOL SPIRIT

Madison Burns Madison Kimberley
Rylee Heyza Emma Knott
Raymond Hill Faith Koester
Alaina Jolly Lauren Kramp
Malorie Wojciechowski

Box Tops for Education

We hope you are still saving your box tops! Don't be shy. Ask grandma and your neighbors to save theirs too!

For a list of participating products, please go to: <http://www.boxtops4education.com>





Second graders' writing has grown strong, interesting, and detailed because they have taken the time to reread and revise.



Second graders hosted a Revision Museum to celebrate their writing!

Helping Your Child with Reading Success

Strategy: Monitor and Fix Up at Home

1. When reading with your child, stop periodically and ask your child, "Does this make sense?" If not, ask your child what he/she could do to help gain understanding of what is being read.
2. Read to your child and model what it sounds like when you stop to monitor your reading. Let him/her hear the process you go through. Ask yourself the following questions: Who is this story about? What is happening in the story? What is the author trying to tell me? Let your child hear you answer the questions and go through the process of monitoring your comprehension.
3. Ask your child to create a list of his/her favorite fix up strategies. Remind your child to use these strategies when meaning breaks down. The goal is



to coach your child to monitor comprehension and use the strategies until they become a habit.

CAFÉ STRATEGY: *Use Word Parts to Determine the Meaning of Words*

No matter what age, readers occasionally encounter new words that they must break apart in order to read and understand. Looking at parts of words helps readers to break the word's meaning apart and gives them a strategy to understand new words. When looking at familiar word parts, readers are able to use their background knowledge of the text, to understand the meaning of the word. Although each year children learn many new words in the classroom, there is no way they can be taught all of the words they will come across when reading. Learning the strategy of **using word parts to determine the meaning of words**, gives readers a tool to figure out words they come across when reading.

How can you help your child with this strategy at home?

1. When stumbling on a new word, remind your child to ask, "Do I know any part of this word?" This question directs the reader to search the word for a prefix, suffix, chunk, or blend they are familiar with.
2. Help your child infer the meaning of the work based on familiar parts of the word. Look for a prefix or suffix and discuss how it affects the meaning of the word.
3. When you have a few extra minutes, give your child a prefix or a suffix and talk about what it means. Give your child two minutes to come up with a list of words that include that prefix or suffix.

Common English suffixes

-s, -es, -ed, -ing, -ly, -er, -or, -ion, -tion, -ation, -ition, -ible, -able, -al, -ial, -v, -ness, ity, -ty, -ment

Common English prefixes

Un-, re-, in-, im-, ir-, il-, dis-, en-, em-, non-, in-, im-, over- mis- sub-, pre-, inter-, fore-, de-, trans-, super-, semi-



Anna Allington	Maci Knott
Brody Dersam	Kaylie McNamara
Abigail Badke	Jacob Nowakowski
Malcolm Bassett	Jared Nowakowski
Katelyn Baumgart	Andigoni Patsalis
Cameron Bleasdale	Jaylen Pullman
John Boerder	Haley Ryan
Cheyann Cadreau	Kaylee Sands
Alayna Davis	Addisen Schmidt
Zachary Ecarius	Nathan Solomon
Jacob Egan	Bailey Stiefel
AnnElise Eitnrear	Jonathan Tackaberry
Ella Farkas	Lillian Tylan
Dustin Forsythe	Jeffrey Ureel
Lydia Gee	Mariah Vo
Nicholas Husovsky	Claire Wilbert
Trevor Klein	Joseph Wolak
Chase Klieman	James Zammita

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

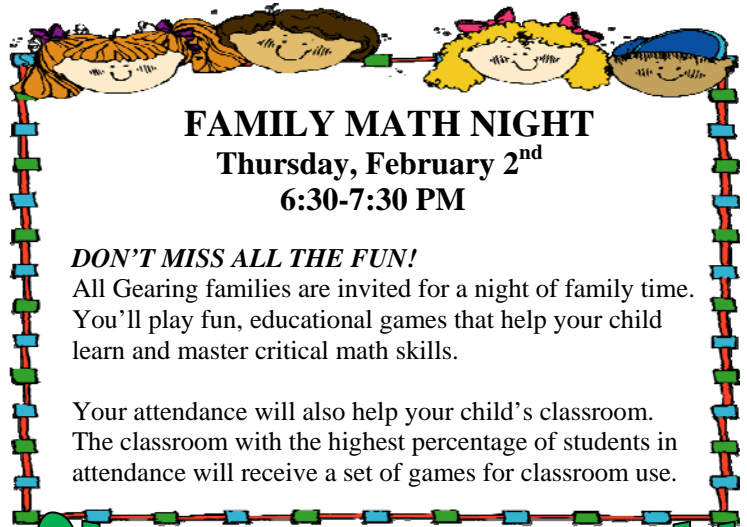


We've now adopted two more areas for Wildlife Protection! Our Student Council thanks you for continuing to send your empty drink pouches. Our collection bins are continually full in our efforts to help our environment and adopt as many areas for wildlife protection as possible.

**FIRST ANNUAL
CHILI-HEART 5K RUN HOSTED BY THE
EAST CHINA DISTRICT SUPPORTERS
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH**



The Chili-Heart 5K Run is a fun run/walk that will be starting and ending at SCMS. The race begins at 9:00 a.m. Details about the race and for signing-up are found on the district webpage at www.ecsd.us. Click the link and scroll down to the link for CHILI-HEART 5K RUN. There will be special awards for the overall winners plus awards for the top 3 in each age group. All profits benefit the East China Supporters and ultimately benefit our students.



**FAMILY MATH NIGHT
Thursday, February 2nd
6:30-7:30 PM**

DON'T MISS ALL THE FUN!

All Gearing families are invited for a night of family time. You'll play fun, educational games that help your child learn and master critical math skills.

Your attendance will also help your child's classroom. The classroom with the highest percentage of students in attendance will receive a set of games for classroom use.

Classroom Spotlight



Ms. Peterson's 4th Grade

The students in Ms. Peterson's fourth grade class showed their school spirit in multiple ways this past holiday season. First, by completing a community service project in which the class chose to collect and donate items to the local Humane Society. Second, by contributing to the Gearing P.T.O. fundraiser by donating a dollar each for "Top it Off Tuesday". Way to show your Gator Pride 4th grade! The class will be starting the New Year off reaching for the stars as they dive into the next Foss science kit: Sun, Moon, Stars. We're sure this will inspire them to explore the many possibilities that await them at the annual Gearing Science Fair.

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SHOW SCHOOL SPIRIT?
Perhaps you are needing a new Gearing t-shirt but forgot to order one in the fall.

Well, you're in luck! We have a few additional shirts available in limited sizes. Contact the office and we'll be happy to provide you with a shirt. Hurry supply is limited. The cost is just \$9.75.