

Grahamwood Elementary Happenings

A Shelby County Optional School

Pete Johnson, Principal

Spring has Sprung at Grahamwood

Grahamwood Elementary has been celebrating literacy for the month of March. They have participated in a number of activities that encourage reading.

For example, students completed the Grizzlies' Read to Achieve Challenge. All 3rd-5th grade classrooms participated. All classrooms with 100% participation were entered in a drawing and two classes, Allison Martin's (5th) and Katelynn Bernardini's (3rd), were drawn to attend the culminating event at the FedEx Forum.

Sylvia Albert's 2nd grade class has been involved in a biography project where students dressed up as a

historical character. They engaged in a character parade and presented information on their person gathered from their research.

Librarian extraordinaire Alicia Fields hosted the annual Read Across America Literacy Week. Each day had a special Dr. Seuss related theme. For example, Monday was *Fox in Socks* Silly Sock Day where students and teachers wore silly or mismatched socks, Tuesday's theme was *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish* with every-

one dressing as their favorite Dr. Seuss character, and so on until Friday's *Oh! the Places You'll Go!* when shirts were worn with a place showing where you have been or want to visit. Throughout the week all classes were encouraged to read and discuss Dr. Seuss books.

In addition to Read Across America, Grahamwood students have been engaged in other initiatives such as Pizza Hut's Book It! Students in grades K-5th who meet reading goals for this program are awarded a certificate for a free pizza each month.



Grahamwood News

Grahamwood Elementary's PTO is currently looking to fund some new playground equipment for the 2019-2020 school year. To this end, we have teamed up with a SCS financial sponsor SchoolSeed. They are hosting a crowdfunding website for us at: ignite.schoolseed.org/project/14881. If you are interested in seeing



possibly contributing, please check out the site!

Grahamwood's Fun Run will be on April 5th. The PTO has begun accepting pledges. The goal is to raise \$15,000. Pledgers can choose to sponsor by the lap or a flat donation. In any case, we appreciate your support

for our students and school.

If you are interested in applying for Grahamwood's Optional program for 1st-5th grade, please do so! Go online at www.scsk12.org/schoolchoice and fill out the form. At the same site, you can also apply for a General Choice Transfer for kindergarten or students any grade if you live outside of our school zone.

Beta Club Reports by Shelby Thompson

In February, Grahamwood's National Junior Beta Club made scarves for the homeless community in Memphis. As you know, February can be one of the most frigid months of the year. So,

our club decided to assist by providing scarves.

Let me tell you how we made our scarves. First, we took about a yard of fleece. We cut the fabric into wide strips. Lastly, we made fringe and other

designs on the ends of the scarves.

Making the scarves was very enjoyable. It felt wonderful to know that I helped the homeless keep warm. Making scarves is something I would definitely do again.

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Grahamwood

Upcoming Events:

Grahamwood Fun Run

• April 5

TCAP Grades 3-5

• April 15-May 3

TN Grade 2 Assessment

• April 22-May 3

Spring Holiday

• April 19

Progress Reports Issued

• April 24

Music Programs

• May 2 & 3 (5th) & May 9 & 10 (K, 1, 4)

Last Day of School

• May 23

Did You Know?

- For information on Pre-K CLUE you can contact Ms. Pankey: pankeyje@scsk12.org
- P.E. Coach Andrew Martin was recognized as a Tennessee Lottery Educator of the Week!
- Homework Hotline is back! Call: 901.416.1234
- Grahamwood is a 2018 TDOE Reward School!

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Teacher Spotlight: Sylvia Albert

This issue's Teacher Spotlight is on a 30+ year veteran of Grahamwood Elementary School, Sylvia Albert. Ms. Albert is a beloved second grade teacher who beyond her regular classroom instruction and duties is always busy working to enhance the creative and performing arts program at Grahamwood. To this end, Ms. Albert arranges for guest artists and programs for both Optional and Scholars classrooms that benefit all of our students.

For example, through Ms. Albert's efforts groups such as Opera Memphis, the Tennessee Shakespeare Co., GPAC, and the Memphis Symphony Orchestra have all visited Grahamwood. She was also instrumental in forging a five year partnership between the Orpheum and the national Kennedy Center for the Per-

forming Arts. This collaborative venture provided every student at Grahamwood the opportunity to attend a performance at the Orpheum for free. Additionally, artists from the Kennedy Center made classroom visits to introduce students to the performance arts.

Ms. Albert has been recognized repeatedly for her work and has earned numerous grants and honors. Some of these are Junior League Innovative Teacher Awards, Donor Choose Grants, and Rotary Grant Awards. Additionally, Ms. Albert was honored by being named a Hadassah Educator of the Year.

In the course of her career, Ms. Albert has taught thousands of children not only to love learning but the love of art as well. How about a round of applause for Ms. Albert!!!



Grahamwood Elementary School's Vision Statement:

Grahamwood Elementary School is an exemplary, student-centered educational community with an exceptional team of stakeholders who create a nurturing environment where all students achieve academic excellence, exhibit good character, and hopes and dreams are encouraged.

Attendance Expectations:

Please be sure to have your children at school everyday, on time and for the whole day. If your children are missing any part of a school day, our outstanding educators cannot teach them and they are denied the opportunity to learn.

Focus On: Alicia Fields

Alicia Fields has been ably serving as Grahamwood Elementary School's librarian for nearly 5 years. The students love visiting the library and engaging in all of the special programs she offers. Some of these include Jumpstart's Read for the Record and the Dr. Seuss Week activities she plans as sponsor of NEA's Read Across America.

Ms. Fields received a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Master of Science in Curriculum & Instruction from the University of Memphis. She went on to earn her Tennessee Certification for Librarians through a partnership with Memphis City Schools and the University

of Memphis.

Ms. Fields began her library career working for the Memphis Public Library where she served for 8 years. From there, she joined Memphis City Schools as the librarian for Egypt Elementary for 5 years before being selected to manage Grahamwood Elementary's library.



"I love kids. I love to see how excited they get to read," says Ms. Fields. "I like to see which books they want to read and in turn, they give me great suggestions for books to read."

I Can Read with My Eyes Shut by Dr. Seuss is Ms. Fields' favorite book. Her mother bought her the whole Dr. Seuss collection when she was a little girl. "I

read them over and over. I loved reading as a child and I still love reading!," states Ms. Fields.

When not at school, she travels. "My favorite place for a trip so far is the Bahamas," says Ms. Fields. Turns out, she likes beaches. "They are so carefree and you are never rushed to do anything."

She has a daughter named Isabella who is 3 years old. They enjoy swimming and no surprise, reading together. As for hobbies, she watches sports—mostly basketball. She also enjoys shopping in her spare time.

Ms. Fields is a valued asset. Her easy going personality and willingness to help everyone is a perfect fit for Grahamwood Elementary School. We are thrilled to have Alicia Fields as our school librarian. Way to go, Ms. Fields!