

GEARING GATOR



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Be Safe



Be Respectful



Be Responsible



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CATCH THE JOY OF GIVING

We are very excited to announce that Jingle Bell Junction will be held December 6th-8th, just in time to do some holiday shopping.

All students are invited to participate in this PTO-sponsored holiday event and experience the joy of selecting their own special gifts for family and friends.

Many of our gifts this year are from a Michigan-based gift company, and we've been able to purchase a large variety of quality items suitable for both children and adults at reasonable and discounted prices. The cost of the gifts will range from \$.50 to \$6.00 with the majority of items in the \$1.00-\$4.00 range.

A Gift List Planner Envelope was sent home with your child. Please have your child bring the envelope along with their shopping dollars on the class shopping day as indicated on the December calendar. (Checks should be made payable to Gearing Elementary PTO.)

Help your child "Catch the Joy of Giving" this holiday season!

Volunteers are always needed to work Jingle Bell Junction. If interested, contact Judy Koester @ 810.326.0181 or email koestersix@yahoo.com.

May the timeless message of Christmas fill your heart and home with joy today and throughout the coming year!

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GO GREEN!

Gearing's GO GREEN Committee is up and running! Thank you to parents who are already participating in creating opportunities for families and students.



We are still welcoming parent participation on the committee, and there are many opportunities in which you can become involved. The next GO GREEN Committee meetings are scheduled for December 5th at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and bring your ideas for how you would like to see Gearing "GO Green!" For questions or more information, please contact Jenny Fehn (810) 841-0906 or kikifehn@gmail.com.

Do you know a middle or high school student that likes to work with younger kids or teens who need **leadership and volunteer hours** for school, scouts, or another organization? We would like to support their volunteer hours by offering supportive leadership opportunities to work with our younger students at Ecology club and other GO GREEN events. Please contact Jenny Fehn if you would like more information or have someone who would like to become involved.

Here are some events already in progress.

We are starting a student **Ecology Club!** Students in grades K-5 are welcome to attend. We will meet once a month and for special planting projects this spring. Our first club meeting is Thursday, December 8th after school until 5:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. Parent permission is required (permission slips will be sent home.) Parent participation is always welcome.

We will be continuing the **Cartridges for Kids** program too! You can send in empty ink cartridges, broken video games, laptops, iPods, digital cameras, DVD's, GPS devices or old cell phones. This is a great opportunity to not only help raise funds for our school but a chance to help keep these items out of our landfills. To learn more about CFK go to www.cfktoday.com.

Don't let the snowy days of January get you down! Mark your calendar for the first **Go Green Family Night** on January 20, 2012, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. This event is hands-on fun for the whole family with activities that teach energy savings, the 5 R's, conversation, wildlife, and more!

We're moving forward with GO GREEN!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

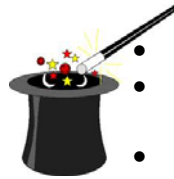
Thank you to our students and parents for visiting the book fair. Because of your tremendous support, we will be adding lots of books to our media center.

Thank you from the bottom of our book-loving hearts!

COMING SOON! The MAGIC OF SCIENCE

Yes, once again, Gearing Elementary will host our Annual Science Fair. All 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students are encouraged to participate.

There are many benefits to having your child participate.



- It helps teach children the scientific process.
- The completion of a project helps build your child's self-esteem.
- Increased parental involvement in your child's learning benefits your child.

Information will be coming home in January. In the meantime, you may wish to check our Gearing website link to science at www.ecsd.us. Click the Curriculum link to find The Science Fair Adventure site with tips and ideas.

Kids Helping Kids

Our Gearing Spanish students had the opportunity to participate in **Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF**. Students collected change from friends and family members for a donation to UNICEF. We collected a total of \$613.61 to help children in the United States and around the world. Thank you for your participation in making a life-saving difference for many children!



YEARBOOK PHOTOS WANTED!

If you have taken any snapshots during school events this year, we'd love to consider a few of them for our yearbook. Please send your picture to Michelle Ross at gross@ecsd.us by January 13, 2012.

KEEPING FIT!



Beginning the first of the year during P.E. Class, we will begin testing all of our 4th and 5th graders for fitness. As part of our P.E. curriculum, students strive to accomplish the fitness gram and demonstrate what they need to do to keep healthy. Students are then encouraged to challenge themselves to reach even higher levels of fitness. Students who achieve 50% or higher are recognized for the National Award and those who exceed the levels of fitness with 85% are recognized with the Presidential Fitness Award in June.

The fitness test includes:

1. Mile Run = cardiovascular endurance
2. Sit and Reach = flexibility
3. Curl-ups = abdominal strength
4. Pull-ups/push-ups = upper body strength

Make fitness a family affair. It's a lifelong commitment for a healthier life!

WANTED

– Moms and Dads with a little extra time! The East China Elementary Schools have adopted an all-district book leveling and coding system to help ensure that all of our students are reading “Just Right” books. We are in the process of leveling all of the books in our classrooms. If you have an hour or two to spare, please contact Mrs. Crandall. We've got a tub of books and more for you to help us with. Your time will be worth a mint!

LEAVING SCHOOL EARLY? Every minute of the school day is important. Emphasis is placed on daily instruction; therefore, we discourage early dismissals.

However, if your child should need to be released early, please notify the school in writing. Students will be called to the office when you arrive. Please be reminded that parents are required to sign out students at the time of pick up.

There are no early dismissals after 3:15 p.m.

Warm and Happy!

There will be many warm children in our St. Clair community this winter because of Gearing's second grade community project. To fulfill one of the social studies standards of community service, our second grade classes initiate each December a “Share the Warmth” Drive to collect new socks and gently used coats to donate to kids in need.



GATORLAND POST OFFICE DELIVERS

In between readers' workshop, math assignments, science experiments, and Michigan studies, the Gearing Gatorland Post Office employees deliver the mail!

The Gearing post office recently opened for business and our third grade postal employees began their deliveries.

The purpose of the post office is to encourage and support writing throughout the school. It also promotes a sense of community and keeps our Gearing Gators connected. Students, teachers, staff, and parents are invited to use our mail service. The bright blue post office boxes are located throughout the school and mail is delivered on Fridays.

There's nothing like receiving a handwritten letter to brighten your day!

BANK BUSINESS IS BOOMING!



Our Everglades National Bank has been experiencing excellent business. Nine new bank accounts have been opened and the number of customers on Bank Day has increased. Our bank employees are doing a fine job of encouraging our Gearing students to “Gear Up for Savings!”



Serena Acciavatti	Lea Kemle
Clayton Bacon	Reese Kulman
Sarah Beadle	Emily MacDonald
Gracie Boes	Jade Nicolai
Nyla Bush	Case Peterson
Brodie Churchill	Jordan Pullman
Bria Dove	Nicholas Raymo
Jacob Gill	Kaci Ripley
Rylee Heyza	Maxfield Schwehofer
Dylan Hubbard	Shailene Vo
Max Hubbard	Molly Wiegand

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

"Go for the Gold"

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

Mrs. Beauvais M/W - Gym
 Mrs. Alley - Custodian
 Ms. Peterson - Music
 Mr. Larson - Media
 Mrs. DuBois - Art
 Mrs. Brosky - Spanish



Reading Counts! Superstars



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

GATORS OF THE MONTH

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

Liyana Acciavatti	Zachary Raymo
Matti Bassett	Kaci Ripley
Nicole Ellis	Crea Sidney
Chase Klieman	Johnathan Tackaberry
Weston Ledbetter	Larissa Thorpe
Nathen Pomeroy	Brad Vandekerckhove
Jaylen Pullman	



Merry Christmas!

Gearing PTO "We're Here for the Kids"



Now through the end of January:
BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION CONTEST
 Thanks for turning in your labels!

December 2nd – Red Wing Assembly

December 5th – 2:30 PM and 7:00 PM GO GREEN Committee Mtg.

December 6th-8th – Jingle Bell Junction

December 20th – "Top it Off Tuesday" Hat Day \$1.00 Donation

COMING IN JANUARY:

January 20th – Movie Night/Super Bowl Raffle

January 24th – GO GREEN Family Night

Thanks to business donations and the contributions from our Gearing families and friends, funds generated from this marking period alone have paid for field trip transportation, a deposit for a SCIENCE ALIVE assembly in the spring, READING COUNTS!, teacher classroom allocations and much more. We are thankful to have such a giving community and to be part of an active Parent-Teacher Organization. Your PTO Board appreciates you and thanks you for being part of our PTO success!

SPARKLE WITH SCHOOL SPIRIT



Avery Gee
 Lea Kemle
 Ethan Knott
 Rylie Sidney
 Allison Sturdy
 Justin Sturdy
 Reagan Wiley

