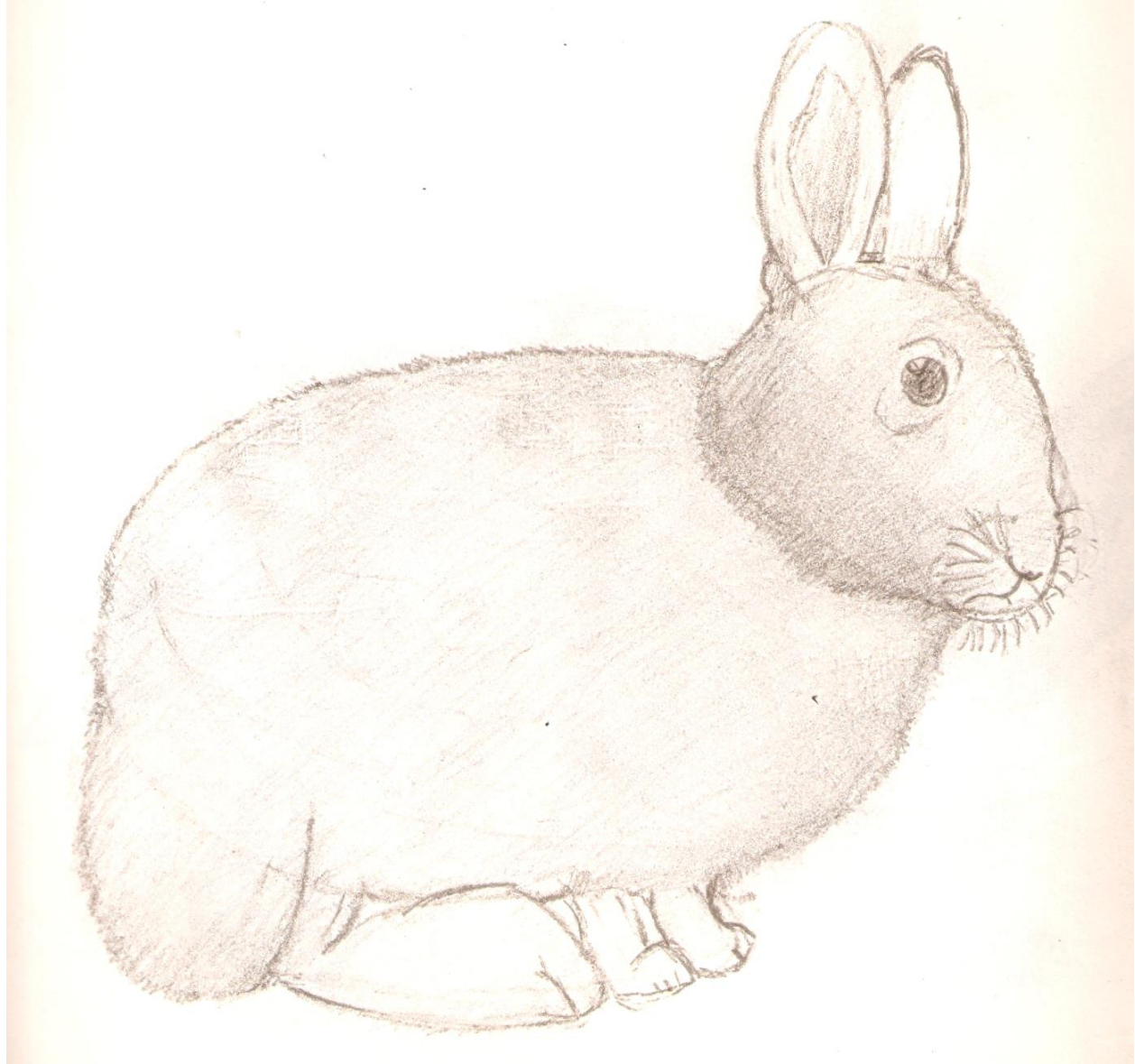


The GPJHS Gazette!

The Official Newsletter of Gregory-Portland Junior High School: Home of the World's Greatest Students!



Spring is here!

Artwork by Fernando Cavazos

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...and more!



Band Notes



By Mr. Anderson



Congratulations to our Concert Band students for fine performances on March 6. They received ALL SUPERIOR ratings from the judges for their concert performance. They also received two SUPERIOR ratings and one EXCELLENT rating for their sight reading performance.

Connor Chaney
Dante Ellis
Isaac Garcia
Caden Lackey
Jayden Lindsay
Zachary Lofthouse
Dale Loveland

Kenzey McClellen-Self
Jennifer McVay
Emily Odom
Sunny Page
Damien Quesada
Hollyce Rhodes
Ricky Rogers

Haleigh Sanchez
Lucas Santos
Averie Scott
Lauren Spencer
Joshua Vaughan
Megan Yzaguirre

AND... Congratulations to Mr. Sanders and our Red Band students for fine performances on March 6. They received ALL SUPERIOR ratings from BOTH the concert AND sight reading judges for their performance today.

Dakota Banks
Tyler Barker
Andrew Bell
Hayden Buller
Ariel Castellano
Logan Cisneros
Katelyn Decker
Ariana Dewey
Terrell Elliott
Blake Farr
Juan Flores
Christian Garrett

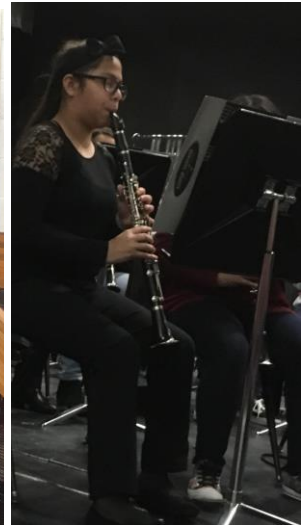
Zoe Garza
Trinity Grimes
William Harris
Koda Honig
Alex Janssen
Madelyn Kocik
Sara Langton
Logan Lopez
Savanna Lopez
Emily Maher
Camry Maris
Vincent Nguyen

Gavin Nunez
Robin Pasahol
Ryan Pfeil
Sean Rios
Tyler Saathoff
Austin Sciba
Mia Sifuentes
Kathryn Smith
Konnor Soloway
Holden Vela
Cristian Villeda



(Top right corner) Nathalie Gonzales, (bottom left-to-right) Mathew Goodlad & Kenneth Allocco, Emma Peralta, Laney Bustos, Omar Mariscal, and Livia Smith are just a few of the students making GPJHS Band-tastic! See more band pictures on the next page!

Band Notes (continued from page 2)



(Above) *Laura Bennet, Peyton Felchak, Dustin Madsen, Cristian Villeda, Mihail Stegall, Vincent Nguyen, Marisela Rocha,* (below) *Holden Vela, Olivia Saunders, Mia Aleman, Santiago Guzman, Brennan Forsythe, and Aiedan Acosta* are looking and sounding ...sharp!



Gazette Q & A

Question: Why am I (or my friends) not listed and/or pictured in a *Gazette* article?

Answer: On a form they completed during student registration, some parents have requested that their children not be pictured nor listed in school publications; this applies to the school yearbook, as well as the *GPJHS Gazette*. G-PISD respects the rights of parents to protect their children's privacy. Parents may contact the school's front office for more information.



Artist of the Month



Fernando Cavazos, our April cover artist, was kind enough to share his awesome sketchbook with us; you'll be seeing a few examples of his talents throughout this issue!

If you are a GPJHS student with original artwork you'd like to share, please contact Mr. Thomas in room C112!

Thanks, Fernando!



Meet Coach Davis

What do you do at GPJHS? Shop teacher & coach

Education/experience: Tulane University, CCSU, Del Mar

Hobbies: Golf, Race Cars

Favorite Book(s): Harry Potter, Hunger Games

Favorite Game(s): (not a game player)

Favorite music, artist or genre: Classical, country, 1950's

Something about me that might surprise people: Nothing – what you see is what there is.



Destiny

Destiny is what we use for our library catalog, a listing of all of the materials available in our library. You can access Destiny online at gpsid.follettdestiny.com (no "www" at the beginning) or, if you're reading this issue online, just click this link:

<https://gpsid.follettdestiny.com/cataloging/servlet/presentadvancedsearchredirectorform.do?!2m=Library%20Search&tm=TopLevelCatalog>



Art by Fernando Cavazos

Academic UIL Addendum

In last month's *GPJHS Gazette*, we reported that over 60 ribbons and medals were won by GPJHS Wildcats at the Academic UIL (University Interscholastic League) tournament on Saturday, February 10th! Our students engaged in rigorous competitions with students from several area schools. Our Wildcats made us proud, winning award after award (so many, we missed one!); after last month's *Gazette* went to press, we received results for the Modern Oratory competition! In addition to winning a 5th-place Spelling ribbon, and a 2nd-place Dictionary Skills medal, Alex Janssen also earned the 2nd-place medal for Modern Oratory!



Way to go Alex!



STAAR Wars – The Wildcats Strike Back!



STAAR (State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness) administrations will begin in April. Don't be scared; be prepared! Students and parents may prepare for the future by learning from the past. Visit this website for actual STAAR materials from previous school years:

[http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/STAAR Released Test Questions](http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/STAAR_Released_Test_Questions)

In addition to the online resources listed above, many teachers offer free tutorials for students before and after school. If you are struggling with a particular subject, please seek help NOW; don't wait until the week before testing!

Scheduled STAAR testing dates for GPJHS:

Tuesday, April 10 – 7th-grade Writing STAAR & 8th-grade Math STAAR

Wednesday, April 11 – 8th-grade Reading STAAR (7th-grade has a mock Math STAAR planned for that day)

Thursday, April 12 & Friday, April 13 - testing for students who were absent Tue & Wed

Monday, May 14 – 7th-grade Math & 8th-grade Math retest

Tuesday, May 15 – 7th-grade Reading & 8th-grade Reading retest

Wednesday, May 16 – 8th-grade Science

Thursday, May 17 – 8th-grade Social Studies

Friday, May 18 - testing for students who were absent earlier that week



Art by Fernando Cavazos



Gamer Code: Absolute Doom



Order Your YEARBOOK



Save the memories! Reserve your yearbook today! If you're reading this online, click this link:

<https://goo.gl/S6mmwi>



Gamer Code: D&D Misadventures 2018



The Buzz about the GPJHS Spelling Bee

Skyla Martini reporting

The Seventh-Eighth-Grade Spelling Bee took place on March 8, 2018. To begin with there were 30 students participating and, by the 2nd round, only half remained. Ms. Athena Lankford took home the first-place trophy, with Ms. Marley Samon-Espinosa taking second place, and Mr. Quinn Smith sliding into third.



Spelling Bee trophy winners: 1st place – Athena Lankford, 2nd place – Marely Samon-Espinosa, 3rd place – Quinn Smith

The two words concluding this extreme competition were: “**xylorimba**” (a percussion instrument, sometimes called a “marimba-xylophone”) and “**tamara**” (a powdered spice containing cinnamon, cloves, and various seeds. It is a popular condiment in Italy.)



Contestants Diego Aguillion, Skyla Martini, Quinn Smith, David Rodriguez, and Dominick Garcia waited for their numbers to be called; the process continued until only two contestants remained on the stage: Marely Samon-Espinosa and Athena Lankford.

Kudos to all of the participants!



Theatre News

Mrs. Leisher reporting

The cast and crew of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” had a wonderful performance at contest, and the following students earned awards:

Abby Krisl – Tech Award

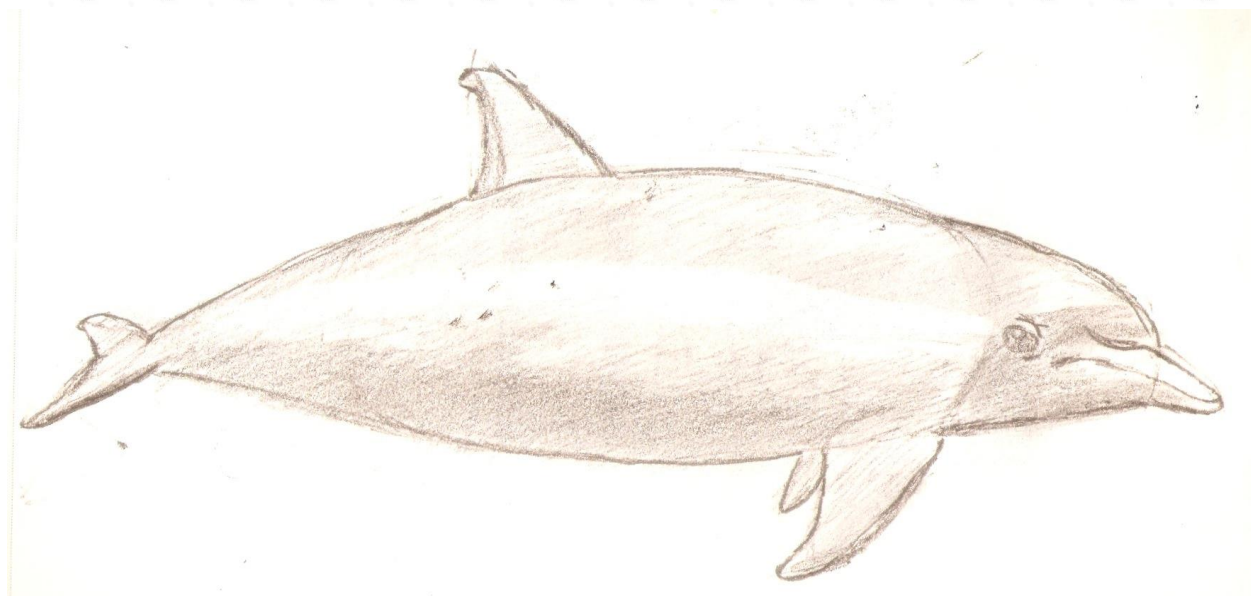
Riley Spencer – Honorable Mention to the All-Star Cast

Austin Watts – All-Star Cast

The performance was lively, full of fun, color and music, and the students all had a fantastic time telling the story that they wanted to tell! I am enormously proud of all of the hard work, gracious kindness, and dedication they exhibited throughout the One-Act Play season!



Award-winning Theatre students: Abby Krisl, Riley Spencer & Austin Watts



Art by Fernando Cavazos

Meet Mrs. Gilmore (substitute teacher)

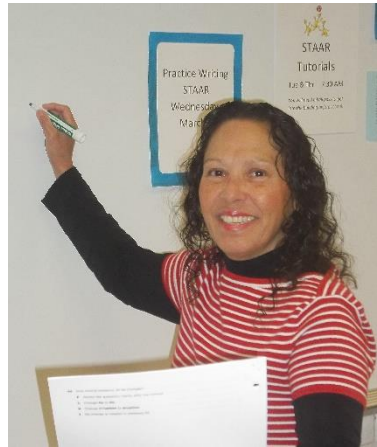
What do you do when you're not subbing at GPJHS? I currently help a friend with her cosmetology business. I am a licensed cosmetologist; that includes: cutting hair, coloring hair, facial preparations and nail preparations.

Hobbies: I collect vinyl records from the *Classic Rock* era.

Favorite Book(s): *Chariots of the Gods* by Erich von Däniken

Favorite Game(s): Serpientes y Escaleras

Favorite music, artist or genre: Classic Rock, Led Zeppelin, Kansas



Something about me that might surprise people: I was a civilian worker for the U.S. Navy, and I received multiple cash awards for good employment performance. I was a DJ at age 23 in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Reading & Writing in ELA

ELA (English Language Arts) students have been reading various texts and writing about the subjects of their reading activities. Here are a couple of samples:

Prompt: *Compare a personal past experience to an event in the life of a fictional character from a story we've read in class.*

Response by Bianca Reyna:

Martha, the girl in "The Scholarship Jacket" by Marta Salinas, and I have similarities and differences. Some things that we have in common are like how we are both Mexican-American and how we both want something so much but have to do something to earn it.

Although Martha and I are different, we had a similar situation. My situation was when I couldn't play on the basketball team because I was too short. I really loved basketball and dreamed to play, but everyone told me I had no chance. I had practiced every day and, before I gave up, the coaches came up to me and said that I could try out for the basketball team. The coaches had watched me play at home and decided to give me a chance. After that, I turned out to be the best player on the team. Martha's situation was that she worked hard to get a jacket. Her sister got the jacket when she was Martha's age. Martha wanted to make her sister proud. The principal had called her in one day and told her that if she wanted the jacket she would have to pay \$15 for it. She told her grandparents and they said that they wouldn't, so Martha had to go tell the principal that she couldn't pay for it. When the principal knew he was wrong, he stopped her from leaving and gave her the jacket. She was so happy and he knew that he had done the right thing.

See, we can get through anything if we put our minds to it. Martha and I both accomplished our goals and worked hard to earn them.

NJHS (National Junior Honor Society)

Mrs. Hayward reporting

On Saturday, March 24, NJHS made "goodie bags" for those in need. Mr. Robbins is distributing them as part of his church's outreach team. If you have done Spring Cleaning, they could also use clothes and blankets; a big need, according to Mr. Robbins, is socks. His team also distributes individual-sized dog food.



NJHS members (above) sort donated items into bags (below).



Thank you to everyone who participated, and everyone who donated!



Let's Be Civil!



On February 23, Mrs. Cullison's students participated in interactive Civil War activities.



Meet Mrs. Brashear

What do you do at GPJHS? I teach Math and Science for grades 7 and 8 in Grand Central Station (GCS).

Education: Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Houston at Victoria; Master of Science in School Counseling from Texas A&M at Corpus Christi.

Experience: 7 years at GT Magnet elementary school in Victoria ISD and this year makes 21 years in Junior High at Gregory-Portland ISD.

Hobbies: Learning to cook healthy recipes; keeping up with 7 grandchildren

Favorite Book(s): my "Study Bible"

Favorite Game(s): Sudoku; family group games; bunco with friends

Favorite music, artist or genre: Christian music – especially acapella; tunes from the 70's

Something about me that might surprise people: I once rode a brightly-painted elephant in Japur, India.



Eighth-Grade Masquerade Ball



What: The final dance of the 2017 – 2018 school year

When: Saturday, April 28, 7:00 – 10:00 pm

Where: GP High School Cafeteria

How Much: Tickets are \$20, if purchased early (\$25 at the door)

Parent & teacher volunteers are needed; for more information, please contact Mrs. Ramirez or the school's front office.



Mark Your Calendar

There are a lot of exciting events coming soon to a GPJHS near you; to see what they are when they will happen, visit the school's website, or click the link below!

<https://www.g-pisd.org/gregory-portland-junior-high-school/calendar/happening-now-event-calendar>



Two Ways to Turn Trash into Cash

Do you want to help the planet and the robotics team at the same time? Simply bring your printer's empty inkjet cartridges to C108 and the robotics team will recycle them for you. Remember that inkjet cartridges will fit in the palm of your hand. We cannot recycle larger cartridges.



...and don't forget about **Box Tops for Education!**



Trash or Cash?



Cash, please!



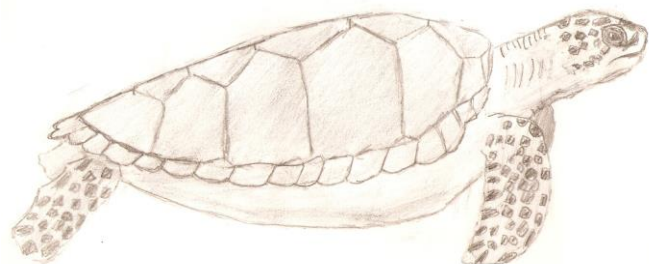
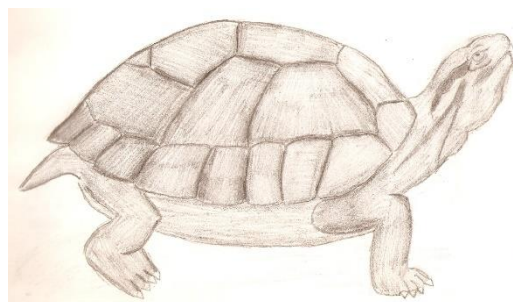
www.btfe.com



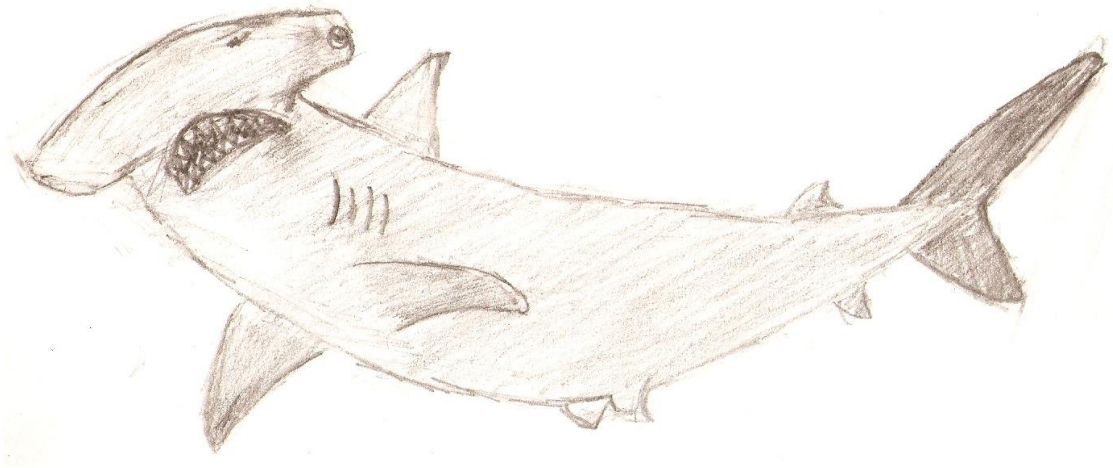
Support our school!



Please deliver Box Tops coupons to the GPJHS Library or room C112. Thanks!



Art by Fernando Cavazos



Art on this page by Fernando Cavazos

Grade Check with Skyward

Catch your grades before they catch you! Check your grades online; here's how:

1. Use the "Quick Links" feature at www.g-pisd.org , or (if you're reading a digital copy of the *Gazette*) click this link:

<https://skyward.iscorp.com/scripts/wsisa.dll/WService=wsedugregporttx/fwemnu01.w>

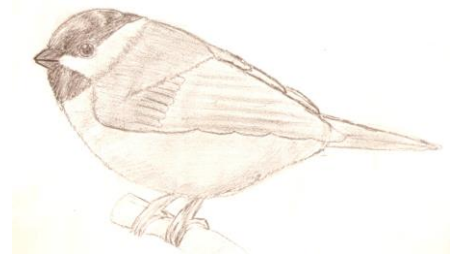
2. Your Student Skyward Login (Login ID) is: The 1st five letters of your last name (if your last name is less than five letters, you will need to type spaces - enough to equal five characters) and 1st three letters of your first name, followed by 000 (three zeroes). Some students may have a 001, 002, etc.

Here are some login examples:

gonzajau000 (Juan Gonzalez's Login ID)

gonzajau001 (newer student, Juanita Gonzalez's Login ID)

cox cou000 (Courtney Cox's Login ID)



3. Your password should be your student ID (lunch) number

4. Once you've logged in, click the "Gradebook" link in the left column.

5. If you want to know more about a posted grade, click it (the blue number), and you will see a list of the assignments/tests/quizzes that account for the grading period in that class.



If you want people to get it, you've got to Gazette it!

The word "gazette" can be used as a noun or a verb; this means you can get information from a gazette (like this one), or you can gazette information for others to see. Do you have something you want to *Gazette*? Please get it to me by April 20th! See you next month!

- Mr. Thomas
GPJHS Gazette Editor

