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Martha Gaskins Mission Statement

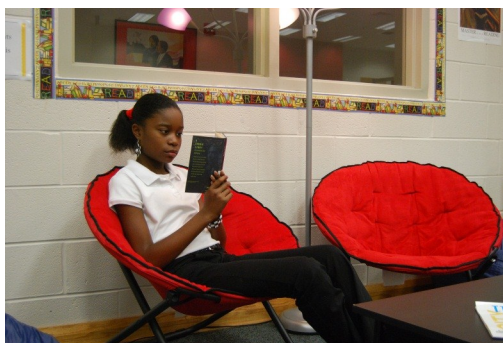
The mission of Martha Gaskins Middle School is to provide a learning environment in which students are motivated both academically and socially to become model citizens prepared to compete in a global community.

It's a New School Year!

By Mrs. Corrie Weiss, Librarian

That time of year is here again: the start of a new school year. As this new academic year begins, I just want to welcome all students and parents back to Martha Gaskins Middle School. I'm looking forward to a wonderful year and lots of fun activities!

This year, the focus will be on promoting literacy, helping students make appropriate book selections, utiliz-



"I look forward to helping students maximize their academic potential this school year." - Mrs. Weiss

ing important research skills using technology and various print materials, and guiding students through their academic lessons and projects. I hope to accomplish these goals by offering a variety of materials and technology for student use as well as an open schedule for students to maximize their time in the library.

I am very excited about this upcoming academic year and hope that students and parents will be excited as well. I look forward to working with students and helping them become more well-rounded individuals through learning literacy, technology, and study strategies.

Literacy Celebrations

This year at Martha Gaskins Middle School, we are looking forward to celebrating literacy in some new and fun ways! In November, we will be having a Rock-n-Read-a-Thon for students and teachers to enjoy. Members of our community will be invited to sit in "rock"ing chairs and "read" to our students. This will give adults an opportunity to show students just how important and enjoyable reading can be.

Also, in March, we will be

celebrating Read Across American Day. Last year's celebration of this exciting literacy event included a door decoration contest, language arts activities, and lots of reading. This year's experience will hopefully prove to be just as fun and eventful as last year's.

Reading is an essential part of everyday life. Through these celebrations, we hope to encourage students to become life-long readers.

Library Schedule

The library schedule at Martha Gaskins Middle School for the 2012-2013 academic school year will be as follows:

Monday	8:00—3:00
Tuesday	8:00—3:00
Wednesday	8:00—3:00
Thursday	8:00—4:30
Friday	8:00—3:00

Extended library hours will be held on Thursday afternoons from 3:00 until 4:30 for students to have extra time to work on projects and school work.

Parent Volunteers



A library is always a very busy place. Patrons are always coming in and out of the library asking for materials or help of some type. Having parent volunteers to help teachers, students, and others who come

Having parent volunteers is important to our school.

into my library would be a great asset for the library and the school as a whole. Some of the things a volunteer might be able to help with would be helping patrons find materials, checking materials in and out of the library, helping process books and other materials, delivering materials to classrooms, and helping teachers and the librarian prepare for classes.

If you cannot volunteer your time on a regular basis, then you may be

able to help with other one-time events such as Read Across America Day, the book fair, or our Rock-n-Read-a-Thon. If you or anyone you know would be interested in volunteering some of your time to help in our library, please contact Mrs. Weiss in the library at 231-9219 or via email at cweiss@bhm.k12.al.us.



Book Fair December 3 - 7, 2012



Last year, Martha Gaskins Middle School held its second annual book fair. This was a big event for everyone

and resulted in raising money for our library. The funds raised by that book fair went on to purchase different materials for the library such as books, posters, and library supplies.

This year, however, the goal is to raise more money in hopes of creating a large lettered sign for the library wall. The sign will feature the school name in gold letters with a burgundy

background.

Purchasing from our book fair will only go on to help our school in the long run. Not only does the school benefit, but our students do as well. The top spending classes from each grade level will be rewarded with a popcorn and movie party.

Readers on the Move Book Club

Last year, The Readers on the Move Book Club was a great success. Students who joined the club read books such as Feathers, Lockdown, and Bronx Masquerade and also went on various field trips to celebrate each book. The students who participated in the club enjoyed reading the stories

and sharing in the experiences the field trips offered them.

This year, The Readers on the Move Book Club hopes to be as successful as last year. For students who are interested in reading incredible stories, going on fascinating field trip adventures, and making life-long

memories through literature, please see Mrs. Weiss in the library for more information on joining this wonderful reading club!



Here students enjoy the field trip to meet Sharon Flake, the author of Bang.