

This just might be my favorite time of the year.

We're beginning to thaw out after a pretty cold winter (by Georgia standards). It won't be long before the first day of spring. Georgia will turn green again and educators everywhere will begin dreaming of the summer months. And while I still have months to go before the start of UGA football, I can take solace in knowing that soon students from all over the state will come together to compete in our GAE State Spelling Bee. And that will be one fierce match-up.

But what I love most about this time of year happens in early March. *Read Across America*.

You have to admit it. It's a pretty terrific premise for a program—all of us reading together across America. As your President, I'm humbled to participate in such a fantastic event—one that encourages children, their parents, and their educators to stop, sit down, and read.



Jeff Hubbard, GAE President

I'm proud to be a member of the National Education Association and the Georgia Association of Educators...associations that cherish reading, the worlds that reading exposes us to, and the relationships that reading together can ultimately strengthen.

This year *Read Across America* in Georgia was even more amazing. I'm pleased to announce that NEA's Cat-a-Van made a special trip to visit us here in Georgia. *Atlanta, Augusta, and Savannah* were all stops on this year's tour.

Promise me something. Don't let *Read Across America* start and end on only one day per year. Make *Read Across America* a year-long priority. Celebrate every day by stressing the importance of reading to your students in your school or at home with your family. I believe that reading is the beginning of all great learning. If our students are to succeed, then they have to catch the fire for reading. Monday, March 3 was just the beginning. How will the children in your world fall in love with reading on March 3 and every other day this year?

So get out your favorite children's book (mine is *Alice in Wonderland*) and start reading.



Did you KNOW? The Georgia Association of Educators has been offering Georgia's outstanding student spellers the opportunity to exhibit their prowess in the art of spelling for nearly 50 years. That's right. This year marks the 47th anniversary of the GAE Spelling Bee. **HAPPY S-P-E-L-L-I-N-G!!!**



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