



The Travis Elementary honor choir sings "I Believe I Can Fly" during a ceremony to honor beloved teacher Suzy McGrew Gregory who passed away suddenly on April 7.

## Travis honors teacher who passed away

A beloved teacher was celebrated by students, colleagues, and family at William B. Travis Elementary School Friday, April 22 after she passed away two weeks earlier.

Suzy McGrew Gregory taught at Travis since 2004, and passed away a few days after giving birth to her second child. To celebrate her life, the school that loved her held a memorial ceremony.

The program was a mixture of laughter and tears.

"You may remember two weeks ago I told all of you that we had a very sad day at Travis. We found out some sad news," said Principal Brenda Hastings-Gongora who conducted the ceremony for the entire student body.

"Today will be a very happy day at Travis because we will be remembering Mrs. Suzy Gregory," Hastings-Gongora said.

The principal told the students that when Mrs. Gregory was their age, she attended Travis Elementary, along with her husband, John, who was in attendance.

Mrs. Gregory also went to Baytown Junior and graduated from Lee High School.

She went to college and came back to her home in Lakewood, Hastings-Gongora said.

"She wanted to give back to her community so she decided to become a teacher at her same elementary school. She was a great role model for so many of us here at Travis," Hastings-Gongora said. "So today, we are going to dedicate this tree, a Burr Oak in her memory."

Independent School District

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The tree will be planted on school ground.

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Suzy McGrew

Gregory

Most of the students and teachers were wearing green. This was done to honor Mrs. Gregory who loved the outdoors and the Earth.

"Some of you may remember her walking to school. Some days she even rode her bike and scooter to school. And many of you remember Mrs. Gregory's warm and friendly smile," Hastings-Gongora said.

Hannah Christensen, a fourth grade student of Mrs. Gregory's, read a poem in her honor:

"The tiny seed grows into a tree,

Its roots so strong and secure;

the seeds you've planted in each young mind

will prosper and endure."

The school's honor choir then sang "I Believe I Can Fly" sung by the Travis Honor Choir, "a song that Mrs. Gregory would have loved because she always believed in her students."

After that, there was a moment of silence and the solemn releasing of white doves.

A memorial education fund has been established for Mrs. Gregory's children, Morgan (age 3), and Bear (age 2 weeks), at Chase Bank, 1515 N. Alexander Drive, Baytown, Texas 77520, to the attention of Tony Ybarbo, for anyone who would like to honor her memory with a donation.



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