



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK—Mr. Lekkas

Our students continue to reflect positive behavior and participation in mature settings.

GKMS students were fortunate to welcome General Huber as our keynote speaker on Veteran's Day. The General also took time to answer student questions. Several members of the VFW Auxiliary were recognized for their recent state level award. The ceremony was followed by a day in which curriculum focused on Veteran's Day related activities.

As you may know, All GKMS students write letters to service men and women. Additionally, scores of letters were delivered to VA Hospitals. We recognized and honor Genoa and Kingston veterans currently serving and several staff members who have served in the past.

365. That is the number of GKMS students who earned Honor Roll and High Honor Roll in the first quarter – 77%. Way to go! For students not making their first quarter goals, the second quarter gives everyone an opportunity to succeed and achieve their goals with a fresh start.

GKMS students participated in our annual food drive to help local families. Community Impact Club joined Student Council in the effort that culminated in a Halloween dance that required three canned goods for entrance. All food items were donated to the Genoa Food Pantry.

It is a privilege to see our students contributing to our community in such meaningful ways. On behalf of the Genoa-Kingston Middle School staff, I wish all our families a happy and safe holiday season.

NEWS FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL—Mr. McPherson

Students are very busy people these days. A large portion of our student body is involved in some sort of extra curricular activity. While we encourage our students to be involved in these things, it's also very important to remember that placing a high premium on academics is in our students' best interest. We encourage our parents to have daily discussions on the academic side of school. As parents we know the typical response to the basic question we ask all of our kids, "what did you learn in school today?" If we are to be involved parents, we need to know some things about the school day to engage our kids in the conversation. Checking grades on PowerSchool and checking the daily bulletin/assignment connection are two great ways for parents to develop dialogue they can use with their kids. Through the use of these two tools, parents can arm themselves with specific information about the daily activities of their kids. They can see grades, assignments, classroom activities and dates for future tests. This is a powerful tool for parents, and we strongly encourage each and every parent to utilize these functions often. If you need assistance with these tools, or if you need your password to access these tools, please do not hesitate to call Mr. Lekkas or myself at 815-784-5222.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH—NOVEMBER

Congratulations to our November Students
of the Month:

6th grade—ANNA RAIMONDI

7th grade—CARLY LUNDGREN

8th grade—NICOLE HEBEL



VETERAN'S DAY 2010—Mrs. Hencken

On Thursday, November 11th, GKMS held a Veteran's Day assembly in honor of all veterans and those currently serving. The program consisted of a brief history on Veteran's Day by Mrs. Carol Hencken, The Star Spangled Banner sang, by our very own, Mrs. Maria Miranda, and a speech by our guest speaker, General Steven Huber. The Genoa Ladies Auxiliary was recognized for their community service work involving the Genoa School District. The General spoke about Veteran's day and thanked the students for their support. After his speech, ten of our students had the opportunity to ask General Huber a few questions.

HEALTH CORNER

It's that time of year for flu season. Its important to stay healthy through the holiday season. Here are some helpful times to get you through....

1. If you don't feel well, stay home and get your rest
2. Make sure you allow 24 hours to pass by from when you started to feel better.
3. Drink plenty of fluids
4. Visit your doctor if you have symptoms that last longer than 3-4 days.

Happy Holidays to everyone!!!



The health curriculum has been off to a great start. The first session will be completed after Thanksgiving. Many of the students really seemed to enjoy the program and we hope that will continue through as the other two sessions carry over. Many of the students worked on projects, illustrations, and worksheets to help them understand many concepts of health which should guide them to making healthy decisions for their physical, emotional, and social needs.

VISUAL ARTS—Mrs. Sorensen

Segues; There are voluminous ways in which Art integrates and transitions learning in the classroom and at large in the everyday world.

Some identifiable segues to Art at GKMS are evident in the ways we participate in support of the community through creative expressions.

In October, for example, students exercised their creative skills within the theme of “There’s No Place Like GKMS” with contributions to our yearbook cover montage. Every appropriate entry was included in the design.

Other students attended drawing workshops to design entries for The Lions Club International Peace Poster Contest. For their creative efforts, the students were awarded first, second, third prizes and certificates of mention.

During Red Ribbon Week, also in October, students contributed to a large mural image display in our cafeteria showing their commitment against drug abuse.

Art History meets the curriculum at large from our revolving “Picturing America” poster display in our hallway display cases while each of our Core subjects displays generated products that are largely visual expressions coinciding with classroom learning events.

Visual Art and Performing Art come together in our annual concert exhibitions. There are many compelling studies about the complex learning benefits of Arts education in school and out.

In my own Visual Art classroom, each lesson finds me integrating other subject area information. Math and Science are the most commonly referenced “Core” subjects. Social Studies get daily play, as well, through Art Historical background information given within each Art project lesson.

Virtually every day there is an art related article in the newspaper. There are art images all around us. Even on Veterans’ Day, our speaker, General Huber spoke of how illustrations assist soldiers in communicating in countries where there are language barriers, for instance. They use pictures to convey vital information while learning other languages.

Keep the Arts in mind in your everyday life. From commercial art images, to music, to fine art displays and even sports logos, etc. it may surprise you where and how often Art segues across events.

HELP YOUR COMMUNITY AND GET A FREE MOVIE

The GKMS Community Impact Club and Student Council are combining to help families in our GK School area. We are asking each child to donate 3 items of nonperishable food OR a new (with tags) hat and glove set or hat and scarf set. These items will be delivered to the Genoa Food Pantry that help families in need in our Genoa and Kingston area only. Collection runs until the morning of Dec. 16th and items can be turned into the gym each morning. This then allows the student to earn a free movie pass. The movie will be shown on the morning of Dec. 17th from 8:30-10:30. You will need to bring your own water, snack, and chair/blanket to the movie. Any questions, please see Ms. Roberson or Mrs. Hencken.

FROM THE 6TH GRADE TEAM

Reading

Some students are finishing a classroom novel and others are starting Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt. This classic story follows the life of a particular family as they come up against conflicts with peculiar characters. The author weaves a tale filled with literary techniques and an intricate plot. The theme of the novel leaves the reader with a perspective of life and a satisfied feeling, having watched the personal growth of the main character. This novel also lends itself well to writing extended reading responses as students analyze the main ideas and author's purpose. In Making Meaning, poetry and narrative texts will be used to teach reading strategies. Included in these lessons students learn to use a double-entry journal to record their thinking. Also, students will visualize in order to create mental images from narrative text and poetry. They continue to use questioning and understanding text structure to make sense of narrative text. In the classroom reading community, students develop the group skills of confirming that they understood another person's thinking by repeating back what they heard and asking clarifying questions.

Language Art

Writing with all the traits in mind continues to be a focus in writing across the curriculum. In poetry writing using figurative language such as alliteration and personification is incorporated. In other writing, literary techniques such as using idioms and sensory imagery give the writer's ideas pizzazz. Persuasive writing is part of the curriculum and can be seen in letters and well as essays. Some objectives include forming a position statement and creating support statements, using the voice trait effectively, and appealing to a particular audience. Skills that become useful during writing assignments include identifying and using prepositions correctly.

Math

We just completed our chapters on decimals and solving and are now ready to move on to our chapters on fractions. We will also be finding the connection between fractions, decimals, and percents and when to use the proper representation.

Social Studies

Sixth grade students in social studies have started their unit on Ancient Egypt. Students will be learning about a few of the many great Egyptian pharaohs like Menes, Khufu, Ahmose, Hatshepsut and Tutankhamen (Tut). Students have learned that Egyptian history was divided into three time periods called the Old, Middle and New kingdoms. Students created posters using pictures to show the achievements of each period. They will also create their own cartouches using the Egyptian writing system called hieroglyphics. We will end the unit around December 8th and then it's on to Ancient India.

FROM THE 7TH GRADE TEAM

Reading/Language Art

In December, Reading students will be applying reading strategies to novel studies. Some skills we will be focusing on include asking questions, characterization, inferencing, cause effect, and the elements of plot. In January, Reading students will be analyzing non-fiction articles using a variety of reading strategies. Some of the skills we will cover include determining author's purpose, cause and effect, compare and contrast, identifying pros and cons, and chronological order.

In December, Language Arts students will be wrapping up and reviewing writing expository texts. As a part of their practice, they will be writing in response to prompts to identify problems and solution writing. We will then move into building a foundation for a research paper. The students focus will be on main and supporting ideas, outlining, credible sources, citing sources, and how to avoid plagiarism. In January, the Language Arts curriculum will focus on writing a research paper based on a Social Studies topic.

Math

As we storm into winter, we will be starting a long unit on fractions, ratios, and proportions. The students are still doing very well in daily activities and are exuding good behavior in their groups. We hope they continue to improve as we enter more difficult concepts and prepare them for 8th grade and high school.

We plan to conclude chapter 5 before Winter break and students will be turning in their text books for the first half of class. They will receive their new text books in January upon return from break. Just a reminder, it is very important that students keep their books in a three ring binder to ensure that they remain in good condition.

Social Studies

We are beginning to study the countries of Latin America giving special attention to Mexico, the Panama Canal, Haiti and our communist neighbor, Cuba. Our study of Latin America will take us from the hills of Mexico and the sultry tropics of the Caribbean through the dense rainforest of the Amazon and the wintry climes of the southern Andes Mountains that make Chile so chilly. We will be concluding our study of Latin America before winter break. Also in December, we will have our classroom level bees for the National Geographic Bee, which will culminate into the school bee in January. Our next unit will start when we come back from winter break. We will be taking our class across the "pond" and begin our study of the varied countries and cultures of Europe.

Science

Can you name five common trees? Can you name five common flowers? Can you name five common houseplants? Can you describe their structures and life cycles? We will be studying plants and their different parts and process in December. Then in January we will start into the animal kingdom. There will be some opportunities for student-led experiments, discoveries, and research.

FROM THE 8TH GRADE TEAM

Reading—We are in the middle of reading the novel The Giver. We are not only enjoying the book a great deal but we are also learning many different techniques and skills to help us understand the reading better. We have covered analyzing the characters and setting, drawing inferences and making predictions. We have also learned better communication skills while working with pairs, small group and even as a whole class. These skills will not only help us for the rest of our school career, but reach far beyond the walls of the classroom. We will soon be covering how to analyze flashbacks and recognizing foreshadowing the reading offers. By recognizing these elements in a novel, it really helps us to comprehend and appreciate the reading. Vocabulary has been a crucial part of the novel and we have learned many new words that will help expand our own vocabulary. After we are finished with The Giver, we will be creating our own community like the one in The Giver with a Utopian Community Project.

Language Arts—Class has opened our eyes to many different ways to express ourselves in our writing. We have mastered the expository essay and have begun working on persuasive essays. We have learned several new writing techniques that will help pull our reader in like beginning with a scenario, using spicy verbs and incorporating vivid words. We not only want our readers to enjoy our writing, but to also experience our writing with their senses. These skills really help bring our writing to life. We are continuing to work with word study and grammar on a weekly basis which has really helped use and understand word origins, spelling and definitions and their function in a sentence. Word study and grammar has really opened eyes to new words which will not only help our writing but also our communication skills with others.

Social Studies—As we move into the second half of the Quarter, students are starting to get into their examination of Colonial America. This unit will include a study of colonial life in general (class structure, types of government, education, role of the family, etc.). The Unit will also include a fairly detailed look at the colonial economy. Students will become familiar with various economic concepts and terms. These will include things like supply v. demand, trade, profit, natural resources, invest, and balance of trade. As we study these terms in the context of Colonial America, we will determine how these same economic concepts play a role in our modern-day lives.

As we get closer to winter break, we will narrow down our study of the 13 colonies by focusing more on the tensions that emerged between the colonies and England. When we return from the winter break, we will be ready to start our study of the Revolutionary War.

Science—Currently in 8th grade science we are finishing up our unit on Newton's Laws of Motion. We have learned that these laws explain the movement of all of the objects in our day to day lives. We have identified the natural forces that cause objects to change their motion such as Gravity and friction. And, we have applied mathematical calculations to every day situations to find unknown values of force, mass or acceleration.

In the coming weeks we will be investigating simple machines. We will learn the types of simple machines and how they make our work easier. We will understand how the mechanical advantage of a machine allows us to change the force and speed with which we are able to accomplish our work. And, we will create a machine that will allow us to test the effects of changing the mechanical advantage.

I would also like to encourage all parents to ask their students about the things we are doing in school, to keep checking assignment books and grades on Powerschool. As you know middle school students are not fully independent and need support from home studying for tests, completing projects and finding purpose in the lessons they are taught. Thank you for your support and your fantastic kids!

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS—Mrs. Sorensen

HAVE **HAPPY HOLIDAYS** THE EARTH FRIENDLY WAY:

- Buy a fresh, free-range turkey. It is better for the bird, better for your body and better for the planet.
- Prepare foods ahead of time. This spreads out the money cost and planning headaches.
- Bake your pies and other dishes together to save time and energy from your oven.
- Compost.
- Pack your freezer with ingredients and leftovers. A full freezer costs less to run.
- Run only full loads of dishes in your dishwasher. If your hands and kitchen sink are the dishwasher, like mine are, use a dunk-rinse method and re-use the rinse water to water thirsty plants inside or out.
- Put leftovers in reusable containers. Use a dinner plate set on a bowl of leftover food to close it **AND** to provide a surface for stacking other bowls or food-stuffs.

HAVE A HAPPY **HOLIDAY SEASON** ON A GRATEFUL PLANET EARTH!

GKMS DRAMA

One Fabulous Evening will take place here at GKMS Wednesday, December 15th, at 6:30pm. Come and enjoy **FABULOUS** presentations of poetry, skits and comedy by our GKMS students!

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY**DECEMBER**

- 2 MS/HS Chorus Concert at 7:00 pm @ HS
BB 8th home/7th Harvard
- 4 Future Problem Solvers 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
- 5 Future Problem Solvers 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- 6 BB MNC 8th Harvard/7th Riley
- 7 BB MVC Tourney @ Hampshire
Chorus/Jazz Band to CherryVale
- 8 Early Release at 1:45 pm
Market Day pick up/Student Council to help
BB MNC Tourney @ Hampshire
- 14 School Board Meeting
- 15 One Fabulous Evening @ 6:30 pm
- 16 8th Grade COGS Day
- 17 Early Release at 1:45 pm
End of 2nd Quarter
6th/7th Grade COGS Day

JANUARY

- 6 Report cards sent home
- 11 School Board Committee Meeting
- 17 NO SCHOOL—Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 18 BB 8th home/7th Creekside
- 19 Sports Pictures for wrestling and girls BB
- 20 Market Day—weight lifting helps
BB 8th home/7th North Boone
- 24 BB 8th Dundee/7th home
- 25 School Board Meeting
BB 8th home/7th Hampshire
- 26 Early Release at 1:45 pm
- 27 BB 8th Harvard/7th home

IMPORTANT DATES

Report Cards sent home: January 6, 2011, March 11, 2011 and the last day of school

Progress Reports sent home: February 8, 2011 and April 19, 2011.

Thursday, December 2nd—MS and HS Chorus Concert at 7:00 pm at HS.

December 7th—Cherryvale Mall Performance for Chorus/Jazz Band.

**GENOA-KINGSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
HONOR ROLL-1st Quarter, 2010-2011**

8TH GRADE

HIGH HONORS – Cassidy Abraham, Erin Boester, Kayla Bratcher, Khloe Butz, Gina Calendo, Kimberly Capes, Brett Devine, Jessica Drendel, Kayleigh Engles, Uriel Espinoza, Tiffani Finley, Rachel Gathman, Anthony Giorno, Ashley Grimm, Kayla Gurnitz, Christopher Guzy, Bridget Halat, Keagan Hanson, Nicole Hebel, Jonathan Hoffstead, Marcus Holley, Kevin Hughes, Jacqueline Jacober, Emma Jones, Leah Judd, Benjamin Kruse, Jacob Kryca, Karli Lancaste, Katherine McCluskey, Griffin McNeal, Joshua Michael, Joseph Murray, Robert Nay, Rachel Olson, Kaley Oplt, Paige Oucheriah, Kristen Pacey, Allison Perkins, Caitlynn Pryor, Jenny Puckett, Cortney Rippberger, Chase Rogers, Hunter Rogers, Tyler Schambach, Alexander Sikсна, Trevor Simmons, Urska Suligoj, Megan Theiner, Maribel Tinajero, Baylie Ullmark, Jillian VanDerHeyden, Emma Vilella, Alanna Wilcox, Haly Young

HONORS – Alysse Ahlensdorf, Kellie Armstrong, Jesse Bade, Chyanne Beach, Will Beach, Matthew Beaulieu, Viviana Beltran, Jordan Bennett, Tyler Bennett, Kira Bensinger, Trevor Bollech, Nicholas Brandeis, Joseph Brooks, Jaclyn Butler, Nancy Cardenas, Matthew Cieslica, Kendra Deskins, Allison Dietrich, Alexis Downey, Nathan Dwyer, Kayla Ferguson, Bryan Fowler, Robert Galick, Javier Galvan, Katelyn Hansen, Hannah Harland, Luke Harmon, Krystian Harrison, Kassandra Holden, Justin Johnson, Evening Kennedy, Travis Koeppen, Anthony Lacko, Giovanni Martinez, Timothy Maynard, Megan McCausland, Hailey Miculescu, Phillip Mohr, Justyn Morton, Nathan Mousser, Christian Ordlock, Steve Orozco, Sylvanna Parra, Samantha Peters, Taylor Pry, Jacob Reyes, Cody Rice, Krysta Roberts, Kylee Roberts, Breea Rogalla, Lona Rowland, Michael Schultz, Sterling Sharp, Blake Sunderlage, Dorian Tijerina, Brandon Trupp, Katelyn Tuma, Joseph Uszcienski, Daniel Villagran, Hannah Zapatka, Brianna Zenk

7TH GRADE

HIGH HONORS – Jacob Almquist, Grace Andersen, Kendall Bacon, Steven Baker, Cody Beeman, Torri Bennett, Ethan Broderick, Briana Campbell, Justin Campbell, Thomas Corbett, Mikaela Ferrara, Taylor Fowler, Zachary Gschwind, Devin Guard, Erika Hansel, Holly Hansen, Thomas Hansen, Elizabeth Hanson, Terje Hensley, Ellee Holden, Sarah Howes, Riley Jenner, Danielle Johnson, Thomas Kathalynas, Katelynn Kinsman, Emilie Kottmeier, Katey Kurpius, Jacob Linneman, Thomas Lucca, Carly Lundgren, Caitlin Marinkovich, Jessica Mauger, Kristin McKinney, Matthew Musielski, Jose Ocelotl, Alison Pacey, Abigail Pahnke, Derrick Petruichuis, Mitchell Rausch, Stephanie Routson, Daniel Russell, Jason Sester, MaryKay Sharp, Jackson Shortridge, Brendyn Sonntag, Kendyl Strack, Collin Stratton, Mary Toczylowski, Dakota Tomisek, Andrew Walker, Caitlin Walker, Matthew Walsh, Alexander Widmayer, Christopher Wood, Jocelyn Zapatka

HONORS – Jared Barton, Cole Blank, Kylie Buie, Elizabeth Buschbacher, Andrew Caldwell, Jamie Campbell, Kaitlyn Campbell, Marck Cardoso, Nicole Centanni, Melissa Clemente, Gage Cleveland, Joshua Cook, Kailey Cooper, Matthew Cornell, Madelyn Demings, Arielle Emmens, Ian Fell, Carly Fischer, Gianna Focht, Brandon Foley, Chance Franckowiak, Odalys Galarza, Rakym Goodman, Paul Harms, Sadie Heading, Kelly Hensley, Brady Huffman, Mara Kettner, Kiana Knotts, Haley Kohout, Evangeline LaCasse, Jake Lauderdale, Juan Lechuga, Bly Logan, Tabitha Long, Samantha Marth, Dani Mathey, Claire McCurdy, Kevin McLean, Erika Mendoza, Ireland Milinac, Gina Montalbano, Dominic Morocco, Gloria Najera, Riley Oberg, Brandon Paradies, Morgan Picolotti, Tyler Pope, Kyle Quintell, Manuel Rangel, Abbey Rasmussen, Karah Reedy, Wesley Rice, Jack Richardson, Bonnie Roberts, Austin Ruchti, Marcelo Ruiz, Rosemary Sanders, Katlin Schambach, Joseph Schultz, Kegan Shannon, Emilee Sichz, Karli Smith, Joseph Stanley, Nicholas Strauch, Haley Temes, Derek Tijerina, Claudio Viramontes, Andrew Voltz, Jacob Wakeley, Jacob Walitzer, Garrett Windau, Alyssa Yager, Breanna Young

6TH GRADE

HIGH HONORS – Amanda Anderson, Scott Benzinger, Ethan Bode, Cody Bradshaw, Sarah Brown, Hunter Busse, Zachary Butler, Joshua DeNoma, Todd Durham, Zachary Edwards, David Fromi, Heather Gathman, Brookelynn Grismer, Connor Hansen, Austin Hanson, Rachel Hughes, Amber Johnson, Jessica Jureczek, Jason Kuhn, Jessica Kurpius, Conner Makoben, Mary McCausland, Matthew McCluskey, CJ McPherson, Cally McPherson, Joanne Partipilo, Micah Phillips, Morgan Phillips, Anna Raimondi, Joseph Ruehl, Madeline Ruehl, Taylor Russell, Shane Sax, Heidi Scaccianoce, Carl Schmidt, Edward Small, Grace Vilella, Kristin Wilcox, Alex Zelaya, Lindsey Zuke

HONORS – Andrew Arias, Alexis Atterberry, Kathryn Beauchamp, Bailey Boehmer, Maggie Bouque, Zachary Brown, Joseph Brynteson, Caitlin Buie, Edwin Camargo, Alexander Campbell, Savannah Cave-Hansen, Dylan Connell, Jacqueline Contreras, Nicholas Cotton, Danyelle Crozier, Taylor Curry, Jackson Daurer, Joshua Dold, Catherine Drake, Anna Drendel, Colin Dvorak, Parker Dwyer, Bryan Earley-Harrison, Ryan Easterbrooks, Kaleb Eskew, Trace Fidler, Hannah Flint, Alan Gable, Julianne Galauner, Morgana Gandsey, Sonia Gaytan, Gregory Gomez, Janet Gomez, Daniel Guardi, Anthony Gutierrez, Jonathan Guzy, Tyler Hansler, Jessica Harmon, Lexi Howie, Steven Hull, Madison Hunt, Ryan Johnson, Kinsley Judd, Michael Kral, Samantha Kratochvil, Alissa Lacko, Jesus Lara, Carlee Lauderdale, Mya Lee, Kevin Lin, Treysen Long, Jason Madey, Brandon Mangum, Jose Martinez, Trey McCarty, Madelyn McConnell, Justin McNeal, Andrew Miller, Luke Miller, Zachary Miller, Brendan Mueller, Spencer Mulso, Olivia Napiorkowski, Jessica Nay, Sandra Osorio, Saul Osorio, Annabella Paradies, Morgan Paulsen, Tessa Poffenberger, Connor Quinn, Kaitlyn Rease, Tyler Reisinger, Kurt Schmicker, Cody Schuldt, Colin Seisser, Aidan Simmons, Katilin Sosnowski, Daisy Sota Gysel, Sota, Julia Springer, Stephanie Stensrud, Wyatt Sunderlage, Martin Tinajero, Nicolas Uecker, Jacob Uszcienski, Luz Vasquez, Roberto Vazquez, Brooke Wade, Samantha Walton, Rebecca Waxman, Clint Wewetzer, Cayla Winters

♪ Illinois Music Education Association ♪

Congratulations to all of our students who auditioned for IMEA (Illinois Music Education Association) on Saturday, October 16, 2010. Every one of our music students in the Middle School and High School did an excellent job representing our school.



Middle School and High School students selected will represent us proudly at the NIU-IMEA Music Festival on Saturday, November 20, 2010. Middle School students pictured from left to right:

Tommy Corbett – Band/Baritone, Brandon Trupp – Band/Trombone,

Collin Stratton – Band/Baritone, Arielle Emmens – Chorus,

Katie Kurpius – Band/Alto Saxophone, Kayla Gurnits – Chorus.

About the

Illinois Music Educators Association

The mission of the Illinois Music Educators Association is to promote lifelong music learning and to provide leadership for music education.

With more than 5,000 members, IMEA is one of the largest of 52 affiliates of MENC: The National Association for Music Education.

IMEA is by far the largest Fine Arts education organization in Illinois.

