



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK—Mr. McPherson

Community and parental support is an essential part of each child's education. The GKMS staff works hard to communicate and cultivate relationships with parents in order to provide the best possible learning environment to our students. While we know we can always keep improving in this area, we have several communication tools in place to help our parents feel connected to GKMS. A brief review of our communication tools:

- **Assignment Connection:** Although we had some problems with it earlier in the year, assignment connection allows our parents to see daily assignments posted by 1pm.
- **Powerschool:** Grades are updated each Friday for parents to see.
- **Principal's Blog:** A new feature on our website, there will be weekly postings including a survey from our open house night last week.
- **Twitter:** For updates on extra-curricular activities and other announcements, please follow @gkmscogs on Twitter.
- **Parents Tab:** We now have a "parents tab" on our website that will have useful information posted.
- **GKMS Calendar:** The GKMS calendar has all of our events posted well in advance.
- **Website:** Our website has faculty emails, sports schedules and several other useful tidbits for parents.

As we continue to make communication a top priority, we hope parents find all of these available resources useful. As always, if parents have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 815-784-5222. Thanks for helping us make GKMS a great place for kids!

Mr. Brett McPherson

CONFERENCE PROCEDURES

Genoa-Kingston District #424 conference day is Thursday, November 3rd. While not all parents will be contacted by the school for a conference, everyone is welcome to call the school office or staff anytime you wish to meet regarding your student. We also would like to remind parents to use PowerSchool for grade information and the Assignment Connection.

SCHOOL PICTURES RETAKES

Picture retakes will be Wednesday, October 19. Pictures will be taken early in the morning. All students who are new, or didn't get their picture taken on the first picture day, will have their picture taken. If you need a retake, please bring in your old picture package.

\$570 DONATION TO GKMS

All of us at GKMS would like to thank our very devoted group of "Reading With The Grannies" ladies that raised \$570 from their garage sale earnings and gave to the GKMS Student Council. This money will be used throughout the school year to help students in need in a variety of ways. This wonderful group comes into our building every Monday morning and listens to our 6th and 7th graders read out loud to them. They work our PTO Book Fair, help during ISAT Week, and assist in other ways throughout the school year. Their hard work and dedication is a real blessing to our building. Thank you ladies!

Breakfast Program

GKMS will offer breakfast for the 2011-2012 school year. For students who are on free lunch, breakfast is also free. For students who are on reduced lunch, breakfast is \$.30. For all other students, breakfast is \$1.50. Please contact Mr. McPherson at 815-784-5222 with any questions.

GKMS ANNUAL FALL FOOD DRIVE—Mrs. Hencken

As in the past, the GKMS Student Council is holding a food drive from Oct. 3-31st. The food will be donated to the Genoa Food Pantry that services several hundred families in the Genoa and Kingston area only. This drive helps fill the shelves for the Thanksgiving meal of many families. Canned and boxed items can be brought to school daily and students receive credit for their items. GKMS will host a student vs faculty basketball game on Friday, October 28th at 2pm. One canned food or box item is needed to attend the game, and 4 items are needed to participate as a player. Students need to check in with a student council member that will be on hand every morning in the gym to receive credit for their donated items. All the food will help out families in our area, so please be generous if you can. Thank you in advance.

Halloween Dance

GKMS Student Council is sponsoring a Halloween Dance for all 6th-8th graders that attend GKMS. The dance will be held on Halloween night from 3-5pm in the school gym. Costumes are permitted, but will need to come to school in a bag and be put on after school hours. Dressing rooms will be available after school on that day. Cost is \$4 or 4 cans of food that will be donated to the Genoa Food Pantry. Snacks will be provided and parents may attend. Any questions, please contact Mrs. Hencken, Student Council Advisor at Chencken@gkschools.org

Drama

One Fabulous Evening, a night of comedy, skits, and so much more will take place Thursday, October 13 at 6:30pm at GKMS. Admission is free! Come out and enjoy! Any questions – ask Mrs. Laben (Qualls).

Health Room Notes

Vision and hearing screenings will be conducted at Genoa Kingston Middle School on Wednesday, October 12 and Thursday, October 13, 2011. All 6th and 7th grade students who receive special education services, as well as, any students new to our district this school year will be screened for vision and hearing. All 8th grade students will be screened for vision. Eighth graders who receive special education services or are new to the school district will also receive hearing screening. If your child wears glasses, please make sure they wear them on this day. Parents may call the Health Office to request a screening if they have a concern for their child.

As a reminder to parents/guardians, a vision screening is not a substitute for a complete eye and vision evaluation by an eye doctor. Children are not required to undergo the vision screening if an optometrist or ophthalmologist has completed and signed a Report of Vision Exam within the past 12 months.

Tracey Busby, RN, BS, M.S. Ed

2012 Washington, D.C. Trip

This year's Washington, D.C. trip is scheduled for June, 2012. All GK 7th, 8th and 9th graders are welcome to sign up. There will be a parent/student informational meeting on Thursday, October 13th at 7pm at Genoa-Kingston Middle School. Please contact Mrs. Tory Logsdon at 784-5222 or at TLogsdon@gkschools.org with any questions. Hope to see you there!

Year Book Cover Drawing

Yearbook cover drawings with the theme "GKMS Learning All Stars" are being accepted until Friday, October 21. Drawings MUST be in black and white on a form from Ms. Sorensen, room 171, available beginning Tuesday, October 11.

BOYS BASKETBALL TRYOUTS 7TH & 8TH

Tryouts for 7th and 8th grade basketball will be at GKMS on October 13, 14 and 17. Tryouts will be from 3:05-5:00. Any students who wants to tryout must have a physical on file BEFORE trying out. (If our 8th grade football team makes the Conference Bowl game on October 15th, their tryouts will be October 17, 18 and 19. We will make this change as soon as we know about the bowl game, which will probably be October 12th) If you have questions, please contact Brett McPherson at 815-784-5222.

6TH GRADE NEWS

Math

EnVisions

Over the next month the EnVision students are going to get into a wide range of topics. We will start with all the different operations with decimals. They will be asked to add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals in order to solve problems. In that topic students will also be covering scientific notation to write very large or very small numbers. As soon as we are done with the decimal units we will then start our unit on solving and writing equations.

Reading/Language Arts

In reading, students are working on the reading strategy of Asking Questions. We will continue with read alouds from the Making Meaning curriculum. Students should continue to read their AR books outside of class daily.

In language arts, we will continue to focus on the 6+1 Traits of Ideas, Presentation, and Conventions in all students' writing assignments. We are working on developing ideas and including specific sensory details in our writing.

7TH GRADE NEWS

Social Studies – Mr. McCune

It has been a great start to the new school year. We are halfway done with the first quarter, and we are just beginning to complete our unit on the basics of world geography. We have reviewed how to read maps and made our own. We have created dictionaries of the earth's varied physical features to remind us what types of landforms the world's people inhabit. We have just finished examining the five themes of geography. Beginning September 29th some of the good people from Resource Bank will be coming to teach our students about world economics from the Junior Achievement curriculum. It is an interesting topic from some people with firsthand experience in economics. And later in October, we will begin to examine United States and Canada, two countries that students should be the most familiar with. It is then that we will begin to evaluate current events that will give students an understanding of the world and its people.

<http://mccunegeography.blogspot.com/>

<http://mccunegeography.wikispaces.com/>

7TH GRADE NEWS

Reading/Language Arts

During October we will be analyzing narrative literature. In the Making Meaning Curriculum, the students will be exploring narrative text structure. Students will continue to use questioning strategies along with analyzing whether questions are answered directly or indirectly within the text. Using various stories, we will be evaluating the relationships between character, setting, and plot, and we will be working with the literary element of flashbacks.

In writing, the students will be continuing to polish their expository writing skills. We will be focusing on incorporating the 6 traits of writing. In grammar, will be continuing to master parts of speech. Students will also be working with the prefixes and suffixes corp-, cred-, dorm-, and epi-.

Science

Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Class, Genus, Species! Classification helps us understand how organisms are similar and what makes them unique. Coming up next is our study of cells. We will investigate their parts, processes, and functions. Students will be creating a 3D cell model. Common household items and things often found in the “junk drawer” make the best supplies for this creative project. More details coming soon! Also, we are in the process of making an electronic version of our textbook available on the GKMS website.

Math

Students are off to a great start this year in math! Students continue to excel in their study teams, and are modeling great teamwork, as well as, displaying independent thinking. During October, students will be studying the Order of Operations (Chapter 3) and begin a long unit studying Geometry (Chapter 4). Keep up the great work!

8TH GRADE NEWS

Science

Currently in 8th grade science we are finishing up our unit on the scientific method which is the basis for solving problems. We have learned that the scientific method is a detailed set of steps that need to be followed in order for an investigation to be valid. We have been working together in small groups to complete projects and activities in class. We have also reviewed metric measurement and learned how to graph data in a clear and effective way.

In the coming weeks we will learn how velocity, time and acceleration are related. We will represent both the speed and acceleration of an object on a line graph. We will identify the difference between positive and negative acceleration. And, we will calculate the speed, velocity and acceleration of objects in real world situations using the appropriate mathematical formula.

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!

Math

For more information on our curriculum, access to textbook sample problems, and parent guides, please visit www.cpm.org. Students in both the Foundations for Algebra II classes have started off strong. We are working with the basic parts of algebra and are beginning to work them in with real life problems. Some of the skills being taught throughout October deal with all fractions being used in all operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division), probability, and eventually move on to ratios. We will examine probability with dice and spinners and continuous probability such as flipping a coin.

As for the Algebra classes, Chapter 1 & 2 has come and gone and we are starting to understand the basic building blocks of graphing linear equations. We should be able to translate graphs from tables, to rules, to actual lines on a graphing calculator and on paper through October. We will be using the graphing calculator more as the book carries on, but we are just trying to navigate through all those buttons!

All the math classes are off to a good start to the school year and we hope to carry that into those cooler fall months!

8TH GRADE NEWS continued....

Reading/Language Arts

Eighth graders have had a busy start to the year. After studying story elements and kinds of literature, they began Making Meaning in reading classes. They read and analyzed the picture book “The People Could Fly,” an African American folk tale. Then they read the short story “Fairy in a Jar.” After reviewing and practicing reading extended responses, students will continue on with Making Meaning.

In language arts, we have begun to practice grammar skills. We are studying simple, compound, and complex sentences as well as subjects and predicates. Students continue to practice writing using specific words and phrases as well as remembering to “show, not tell” as they write.

We’d like to thank all who attended our open house. It was good to meet new people and become reacquainted with others. If you have any questions, please contact us at school at 815-784-5222 or at our school email: kdeverel@gkschools.org, kroberso@gkschools.org, svolden@gkschools.org.

ART CLUB—Mrs. Sorensen

Art Club has begun and will meet most Thursdays from 3:00 p m to 4:00 pm in the Art Room, 171 with Mrs. Sorensen. Students will be involved in a variety of activities from which to hone their art skills, decorate the building, and gather together in a sports alternative extra-curricular venue.

Students will create banners, small sculptures, paper murals paintings and modeling clay images among other ideas. This 2011-2012 group has a lot of personality and fantastic imagination. We look forward to making a creative splash here at the school.

Peace Poster Contest - Mrs. Sorensen

The Lions Club International Peace Poster Contest is taking place in its first level here at GKMS during the first half of October. This year’s theme is “Children Know Peace” and Mrs. Sorensen is the advisor, coordinator and judge for this level of the competition.

Students wishing to participate should see Mrs. Sorensen for poster paper and guidance. Three winners will be selected to send on to the Local Lions Club Chapter. The first place winner will be sent on to the international competition to challenge poster images from all over the world.

Contact Mrs. Sorensen here at the school for further information and have fun!

Peace.

Come one come all!!!!

The Genoa Food Pantry needs your help!!! On October 23rd, there will be a 5k race at the high school at 9:00 am. Grab a friend and come show your support.

Race Details:

The course will follow Brett's run route. All those who participate in the 5k race will receive a finisher's medal upon completion of the race. There are also age level awards when the race is completed. Attached is the entry form, you may fill it or register online.

Hope to see you there!!!!

Tiffany Gawrysh

Genoa-Kingston Middle School



<p>Race Course This course is great for the first time 5k runner and for anyone who is looking to get their personal best time! The course starts at Genoa-Kingston High School and will run through a nearby neighborhood. You will feel like a star as you finish on the track.</p> <p>Chip Timing No matter where you start at the line, this race will get your accurate time, with great technology provided by It's Race Time.</p>	<p>Awards Overall male and female will be eliminated from their respective age group 3 awards per age per gender Complimentary medal for all 5k finishers</p> <p>Age groups: 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60+</p>
<p>Proceeds Money raised will benefit the Genoa Food Pantry. Within the last few years the food pantry has been servicing around 100 families. Within the last year the number has grown to over 400.</p>	<p>Complimentaries Each registered participant will receive the following.... Short sleeve T-shirt Goodie bag and awards</p>

<p>How to Enter</p> <p>Mail thru 10/15 via registration from brochure</p> <p>Online thru 10/19 at It's Race Time, Inc.</p> <p>http://register.itsracetime.com/Register/?event=5084</p> <p>On Race Day on 10/23, 7:30-8:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Make Checks Payable to:</p> <p>"Strides for Hunger"</p> <p>941 W. Main Street 5K runners: \$25</p> <p>Genoa, IL 60135 3K walkers: \$15</p>
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Last Name	First Name	MI		
Street Address	City	State	Zip Code	
Shirt Size: Circle				
Age on Race Day	S M L XL XXL			
Signature Participant (Guardian if under 18)			I know by walking/running the road race could be a potentially hazardous activity. I know that I should not enter a run/walk unless I am medically able or properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of a race official relative to my ability to safely complete the race. I assume all responsibility of the risks while participating in the event even with police protection provided; I also assume the risks of running in traffic. Having read this waiver, I understand that I, for myself will not be refunded the entry fee if forgo participating in the race. I, myself and anyone entitled to act on my behalf wave and release the Strides for Hunger and all committees of the race from all claims and liabilities arise out of my participation in this race. I also grant permission forgoing	

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

3	VB 8th Home, 7th @ Riley	4	Fundraiser Delivery VB 8th @ Hampshire, 7th Home
6	FB Home 7th vs. Rockford Lutheran, 8th vs. Christian Life VB Consolation Tourney	7	No School—Teachers Institute
8	VB MNC Tourney @ Westminster	10	No School—Columbus Day
11	FB Home 7th & 8th vs. Winnebago	12	Vision/Hearing Screening
13	Boys Basketball Tryouts Market Day Pick—Up One Fabulous Evening @ 6:30 pm Vision/Hearing Screening	14	Boys Basketball Tryouts End of 1st Quarter
15	IMEA Auditions @ Sterling Fine Arts Boosters Open House	17	Boys Basketball Tryouts
19	Picture Retakes	20	Report cards go home
24	BB 7th Home, 8th @ Stillman	25	BB 7th & 8th @ Indian Creek School Board Meeting 7:00 pm GKH
26	Boys Basketball & Cheer Sports Pictures @ 3:00 pm	27	Vision/Hearing Re-Screening BB 7th Home, 8th @ North Boone PTO Meeting 6:30 pm
28	Faculty/Student Basketball game @ 2:00 pm	29	BB 8th A Team Creekside Tourney
31	Halloween Dance 3:00—5:00 pm		