



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK—Mr. Lekkas

The 10-11 school year has come to a close. From my first years as an 8th grade teacher in Cicero, this has been a time of year for reflection. A lot of hard work by GKMS staff brought about a lot of learning. However, the staff's continual caring and work on the behalf of students has affected kids on a personal level. Thinking of this, I recall a blog entry from last year:

Soon, Mr. McPherson and the staff will continue the work of analyzing data and finding areas of strength and room for growth. They will seek improvement through enhanced curriculum, teaching methods, and educational opportunities. They will use data and research based programs to ensure the best possible educational opportunities for GKMS students. I will be doing the same work with the staff at KES to help enhance the programs for second and third grade.

Today, I am not analyzing data. Today, I am reflecting on the vast variety and vast number of challenges our nearly 500 students faced this year.

Some students struggle to find where they will "fit" in the approaching adult years. Being one big group of elementary aged kids suddenly doesn't seem to apply. Overnight, a large group of friends has turned into three or more entirely different cliques. Where do I fit in? Will I ever fit in?

Some families face very real financial hardships in these times. How will we pay for this or that? Why did my mom have to ask Mr. Lekkas to waive my sports fee? Our family has never done that before. Why do I have to wait for my dad's next check to get shoes? Why can't I get an ipod? For some families, these concerns extend to keeping the house or finding means to pay rent. Some kids are wondering why they have moved in to a relative's house.

Some kids are facing very real personal concerns with families. They are experiencing their parents splitting apart or new step parents for the first time. Some kids face abusive situations at home.

School is not a very high priority when other, more personal, issues flood over one's day.

In addition to all these things, middle school is a time where most kids experience change in their bodies and hormone levels they have never dealt with before.

As I reflect on the year I think about our staff. Are they reaching out to kids? Are they visible? Approachable? Know kids' names? Like kids? Care about kids? Build rapport? Am I in the halls enough? Is my office door open enough?

Then, I come to the biggest question of all: Does EVERY student know that at least one adult in this building cares about THEM?



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK—Mr. Lekkas continued . . .

Of course, I want that answer to be yes. In my heart, when I think about recognition plans like Extra Degree, Good News Cards, Cogs Cards, Clubs, Sports, I know ample programs are in place. In my heart, when I think about our assistant principal, social workers, teachers, assistants, lunch staff, custodial staff, and secretarial staff I know that our people do reach out to kids. I know that our staff does care about kids and likes working with them. They take their responsibility to kids seriously and enjoy being a part of GKMS.

As I reflect on this year, I know that the privilege of being GKMS Principal encompasses doing good work with dedicated people to help advance and inspire great kids.

As I reflect on all that was accomplished and all the help we provided for individual kids and families, 2010 - 2011 was a good year.

NEWS FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL—Mr. McPherson

Summer is upon us, will it ever feel like summer? Our students have worked so hard this year; hopefully they will enjoy a well-deserved summer break. The 2010-2011 school year was a tremendous success. We've watched our students grow as people and achieved new heights in academic achievement. We've watched our students excel in athletics and extra-curricular activities, as well as participate in community projects. Our students have shown their talents in music, the performing arts and all of their classes. While it's great to watch our kids grow, it's also difficult because it goes by so fast. We look forward to our students who are returning to us in the fall, as well as the new class that joins us. Please enjoy the summer and thanks to all of our parents for the continued support in helping your children be the best they can be.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH—MAY

Congratulations to our MAY Students of the Month:

6th grade—IRENE VASQUEZ

7th grade—KENDYL STRACK

8th grade—TONY GIORNO



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR 2011-2012

If you have not registered your child for kindergarten next school year, please do so at your earliest convenience. June office hours are 8:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday thru Thursday. If this time is not convenient for you, please contact Davenport School at 815-784-2448. Our district needs this enrollment information so that we can plan for classes and staff. **Fees are not due at this time.** If you know of someone with a future kindergarten student please encourage them to register.

2011-2012 REGISTRATION INFORMATION

All registration information forms are available on the Genoa-Kingston district website www.gkschools.org. No registration packets will be sent to your home. The personal information sheet for your student will be sent home with their report card. Please review, make corrections and answer the information. Please print and complete the following forms from the web-site and return with the correct registration fee (\$110.00,) payable by cash or check: 1) Student Information Sheet—sent home with report cards, 2) Transportation form, 3) Emergency Medical Information form and 4) Authorization to Use and Disclose Protected Health information. If you do not have access to a computer, please call your student's building or district office and a packet can be made available. Registration information is due by August 2, 2011. June office hours are from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Thursday.

MEDIEVAL FAIRE THANK YOU

The sixth grade Medieval Faire was quite a success. Congratulations to Mr. Johnsen and the Triumphant Rats, who won the 2011 trophy. We also want to thank all of the parents for the help during the festivities, the food donations, and the help preparing the feast. A special thank you goes to Mrs. Chronopoulos for the organization of the feast. Without everyone's help, we couldn't have done it. Thank you.

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE—9th grade physical reminder

All students entering ninth grade are required by the state of Illinois to have a physical exam and provide proof of a tetanus booster within the last 10 years. State of Illinois physical forms can be obtained through your family physician or by downloading the form from the GK website. [http://gkschools.org/pages/uploaded_files/physicalform.pdf] Scheduling school physicals early is recommended as appointments fill up during the summer months leading up to the first day of school. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the district nurse at 815-784-5222.

6TH GRADE READING—Mrs. Oille

Summer reading provides a great escape from the hot humid weather coming our way. Help your students to maintain the reading strategies and skills that they have worked so hard on over the school year. Make an effort to visit a library or bookstore sometime during June, July, or August. Assist your student picking out books that are age and level appropriate, but books that they are truly interested in reading. Remember there are a number of genres that we have covered and choosing one or more of these will round out their reading opportunities. Some of the literature and other selections include: nonfiction with biography and autobiography pieces. Also, in fiction we read short stories, folk tales, myths, science fiction, and historical fiction. Students may want to read poetry, graphic novels, and magazines to add variety. Lastly, novels seem to fit the length of summer with ample time to understand the characters, plot, high point, and conclusion. Most of all, enjoy reading this summer just for the fun of it!

7TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES—Mr. McCune

As we finished our study of the Middle East and Africa at the beginning of May we are turning our attention to East Asia. We are learning of the importance of Gandhi's influence to India and the world, how Mao's communist revolution affected China and its subsequent growth since departing from economic communism in the 1980s, how and why Korea has been divided for the past half century, and how Japan is coping to living on volcanic islands prone to earthquakes and tsunamis. It has been a fast year, studying the world and its people. But, I know that our students have a much better understanding of the world beyond themselves and their place in it.

CAREER CRUISING—Ms. Chronopoulos

During my 39 years with Genoa-Kingston Schools, I have been involved in establishing and working with several programs. One of the best is the one that came under the category of Career Education and that is Career Cruising. This is a program the Genoa-Kingston District was able to obtain and initiate about three years ago. At GKMS we have introduced all our students from 6th all the way to 8th grade to this unique program which will continue to be available to the students throughout their high school career. Please make sure your students accesses their personal account on careercruising.com over the summer so that they can increase their level of understanding. All that is needed is a computer and the log in information. Should you have any problems accessing, please contact the office and they will be able to assist you.

It has been a pleasure working for GK #424...thank you for the privilege of being able to work with your children.

VISUAL ARTS – Mrs. Sorenson

Here are several ideas to keep your creative juices sizzling this summer:

- Gather sticks, stones, leaves, fallen flower petals, etcetera and create a mosaic image on your patio, deck or lawn
- Play “I Spy” on a blanket with the kids. For example: “I spy a bear shape in the tree branches.” OR “I spy 2 red flowers by the hose.”
- Plan a mud painting day where the kids paint themselves and the sidewalk with mud. After, hose off in the garden and DON’T forget to take some pics!
- Make a tree loom using natural, biodegradable string wound around and between branches into which you weave sticks, stems, pickable flowers, etc. Allow it to degrade over the summer. Photo-document the stages of its construction and deconstruction.
- At the beach, organize a mini sand tower construction challenge. The tallest, viable tower wins!
- Do a beach-drawing “Pictionary” game.
- Make something nice, pretty, or unique to leave at the cabin or camp spot where you’ve stayed. Mrs. Sorensen has done this several times. Once the resort host wrote to tell me that she framed the item (a drawing of the view out of the cabin window) to hang in the cabin where I’d stayed.

Remember that art goes everywhere that you go! Happy, creative summer to everyone.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS – Mrs. Sorenson

Summertime living is easy, but it can also be wasteful without some planning ahead for trips and entertaining, etc. Below are 8 easy tips for a more environmentally correct summer:

1. Establish rain collection (**rain barrels**, etc) for watering use during dry spells
2. Invest in and provide your family with **reusable bottles** for lunches, picnics, day camp, car rides, etc.
3. **DO NOT** mound mulch next to/up to trunks of trees. Doing so can cause bark to rot, mold or allow damaging fungi and insects to enter
4. Cleaning or refreshing a wading pool? Empty it by the bucketful to **give a drink to a thirsty tree**
5. **Compost** ALL vegetable scraps in a pail, mound or bin
6. **Avoid using plastic ware** for picnics UNLESS you plan to take it home to recycle. **Take a bag along** to that end.
7. Give your plant pots a quarter turn each week to keep them fully exposed to light. This will **keep plants “exercised”** and looking fuller and well-balanced.
8. Packing for a trip? Line up **reusable bags** and pack and sort items as you go. Canvas bags with handles make loading and unloading the car a breeze and they store easily when empty. Don’t forget an “extra” bag to bring home souvenirs and treasures.

Enjoy an easy, environmentally friendly summer!

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS—SUMMER AND FALL OF 2011

Football

Practice starts	August 8 th	9:00 am - 11:00 am	GKMS
Agility Training	Mon, Wed, Thursday June 6-June 30 July 11-July 21 Aug 1-Aug 4	9:00 am-10:30 am	GKMS
Football Camp	July 25-July 29	7am -10:30am	GKHS

Volleyball

Tryouts Start	August 8 th	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	GKMS
VB Camp	June 20-June 23 June 27-June 30	8:00 am -9:30 am 8:00 am -9:30 am	GKHS GKHS

Cheer

Tryouts Start:	August 18 th	3:00 pm -4:30 pm	GKMS
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*Cheer tryouts will be for both Football and basketball. Students may try out for both VB and Cheer.

Girls Basketball

Camp	June 6-June 9	10:00 am -12:00 pm	GKHS
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Boys Basketball

Camp	June 13-June 16	9:00 am -11:00 am	GKHS
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ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST HAVE A PHYSICAL ON FILE BEFORE THEY CAN TRYOUT OR PRACTICE!

All school fees must be paid before students are allowed to participate in a contest (there are no athletic fees for the 2011-2012 school year).

Schedules for next year are on the website!

HONOR ROLL –4th Quarter, 2010-2011

6TH GRADE

HIGH HONORS – Amanda Anderson, Bailey Boehmer, Maggie Bouque, Cody Bradshaw, Sarah Brown, Joseph Brynteson, Hunter Busse, Zachary Butler, Jacqueline Contreras, Danyelle Crozier, Joseph DeNoma, Catherine Drake, Anna Drendel, Todd Durham, Julianne Galauner, Morgana Gandsey, Heather Gathman, Gregory Gomez, Brookelynn Grismer, Connor Hansen, Austin Hanson, Rachel Hughes, Jessica Jureczek, Jessica Kurpius, Conner Makoben, Brandon Mangum, Trey McCarty, Mary McCausland, Matthew McCluskey, Caleb McPherson, Cally McPherson, Spencer Mulso, Sandra Osorio, Saul Osorio, Micah Phillips, Tessa Poffenberger, Anna Raimondi, Joseph Ruehl, Taylor Russell, Shane Sax, Heidi Scaccianoce, Carli Schmidt, Aidan Simmons, Edward Small, Stephanie Stensrud, Grace Villella, Brooke Wade, Kristin Wilcox, Alex Zelaya, Lindsey Zuke

HONORS – Andrew Arias, Alexis Atterberry, Kathryn Beauchamp, Scott Benzinger, Ethan Bode, Zachary Brown, Michael Buczkowski, Caitlin Buie, Edwin Camargo, Alexander Campbell, Savannah Cave-Hansen, Nicholas Cotton, Taylor Curry, Jackson Daurer, Darlene Dawidziak-Herrmann, Elizabeth Dillett, Samantha Dillett, Joshua Dold, Bryan Earley-Harrison, Zach Edwards, Kaleb Eskew, Trace Fidler, Bailey Foley, David Fromi, Kyle Garrelts, Sonia Gaytan, Janet Gomez, Daniel Guardi, Anthony Gutierrez, Jonathan Guzy, Tyler Hansler, Steven Hull, Madison Hunt, Amber Johnson, Ryan Johnson, Kinsley Judd, Michael Kral, Samantha Kratochvil, Jason Kuhn, Alissa Lacko, Jesus Lara, Carlee Lauderdale, Mya Lee, Treyson Long, Jason Madey, Gunther Marinkovich, Erasmo Marquez, Leonardo Marquez, Jose Martinez, Madelyn McConnell, Michael McIntyre, Justin McNeal, Luke Miller, Morgan Miller, Zachary Miller, Olivia Napiorkowski, Jessica Nay, Sydney Neblock, Joanne Partipilo, Morgan Paulsen, Morgan Phillips, Connor Quinn, Maxwell Rausch, Kaitlyn Rease, Tyler Reisinger, Carson Riggs, Marco Rodriguez, Madeline Ruehl, Kurt Schmicker, Cody Schuldt, Colin Seiser, Katilin Sosnowski, Daisy Sota, Gysel Sota, Julia Springer, Wyatt Sunderlage, Paige Tatroe, Martin Tinajero, Nicolas Uecker, Irene Vasquez, Roberto Vazquez, Samantha Walton, Klint Wewetzer, Cayla Winters, Megan Zimmerman

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, Carly Fischer, Gianna Focht, Brandon Foley, Taylor Fowler, Chance Franckowiak, Zachary Gschwind, Devin Guard, Thomas Hansen, Kelly Hensley, Terje Hensley, Ellee Holden, Sarah Howes, Riley Jenner, Danielle Johnson, Thomas Kathalynas, Katelynn Kinsman, Haley Kohout, Emilie Kottmeier, Katey Kurpius, Jacob Linneman, Thomas Lucca, Carly Lundgren, Jessica Mauer, Kristin McKinney, Alison Pacey, Abigail Pahnke, Derrick Petruchuis, Mitchell Rausch, Karah Reedy, Daniel Russell, Jason Sester, Kegan Shannon, Jackson Shortridge, Emilee Sichz, Brendyn Sonntag, Kendyl Strack, Collin Stratton, Derek Tijerina, Mary Toczykowski, Dakota Tomisek, Andrew Voltz, Jacob Walitzer, Andrew Walker, Matthew Walsh, Alexander Widmayer, Christopher Wood, Breanna Young, Jocelyn Zapatka

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GKMS GAZETTE

HONOR ROLL –4th Quarter, 2010-2011 continued . . .

7th GRADE

HONORS – Andrew Arias, Alexis Atterberry, Kathryn Beauchamp, Scott Benzinger, Ethan Bode, Zachary Brown, Michael Buczkowski, Caitlin Buie, Edwin Camargo, Alexander Campbell, Savannah Cave-Hansen, Nicholas Cotton, Taylor Curry, Jackson Daurer, Darlene Dawidziak-Herrmann, Elizabeth Dillett, Samantha Dillett, Joshua Dold, Bryan Earley-Harrison, Zach Edwards, Kaleb Eskew, Trace Fidler, Bailey Foley, David Fromi, Kyle Garrelts, Sonia Gaytan, Janet Gomez, Daniel Guardi, Anthony Gutierrez, Jonathan Guzy, Tyler Hansler, Steven Hull, Madison Hunt, Amber Johnson, Ryan Johnson, Kinsley Judd, Michael Kral, Samantha Kratochvil, Jason Kuhn, Alissa Lacko, Jesus Lara, Carlee Lauderdale, Mya Lee, Treyson Long, Jason Madey, Gunther Marinkovich, Erasmo Marquez, Leonardo Marquez, Jose Martinez, Madelyn McConnell, Michael McIntyre, Justin McNeal, Luke Miller, Morgan Miller, Zachary Miller, Olivia Napiorkowski, Jessica Nay, Sydney Neblock, Joanne Partipilo, Morgan Paulsen, Morgan Phillips, Connor Quinn, Maxwell Rausch, Kaitlyn Rease, Tyler Reisinger, Carson Riggs, Marco Rodriguez, Madeline Ruehl, Kurt Schmicker, Cody Schuldt, Colin Seiser, Katilin Sosnowski, Daisy Sota, Gysel Sota, Julia Springer, Wyatt Sunderlage, Paige Tatroe, Martin Tinajero, Nicolas Uecker, Irene Vasquez, Roberto Vazquez, Samantha Walton, Klint Wewetzer, Cayla Winters, Megan Zimmerman

8TH GRADE

HIGH HONORS – Cassidy Abraham, Viviana Beltran, Erin Boester, Trevor Bollech, Khloe Butz, Gina Calendo, Nancy Cardenas, Nickolas Cartee, Matthew Cieslica, Brett Devine, Alexis Downey, Jessica Drendel, Uriel Espinoza, Tiffani Finley, Rachel Gathman, Ashley Grimm, Kayla Gurnitz, Bridget Halat, Keagan Hanson, Hannah Harland, Nicole Hebel, Marcus Holley, Kevin Hughes, Jacqueline Jacober, Benjamin Kruse, Jacob Kryca, Megan McCausland, Katherine McCluskey, Joshua Michael, Kaley Opt, Steve Orozco, Paige Oucheria, Kristen Pacey, Caitlynn Pryor, Jenny Puckett, Cortney Rippberger, Chase Rogers, Hunter Rogers, Tyler Schambach, Alexander Siksna, Trevor Simmons, Urska Suligoj, Baylie Ullmark, Jillian VanDerHeyden, Emma Vilella, Alanna Wilcox, Hannah Zepatka

HONORS – Alyse Ahlensdorf, Kellie Armstrong, Jesse Bade, Chyanne Beach, Will Beach, Matthew Beaulieu, Jordan Bennett, Kira Bensinger, Nicholas Brandeis, Kayla Bratcher, Joseph Brooks, Kimberly Capes, Kendra Deskins, Nathan Dwyer, Kayleigh Engles, Marisol Flores, Bryan Fowler, Robert Galick, Anthony Giorno, Christopher Guzy, Peter Hanchar, Luke Harmon, Krystian Harrison, Hannah Hehn, Jonathan Hoffstead, Cassandra Holden, Justin Johnson, Emma Jones, Leah Judd, Evening Kennedy, Anthony Lacko, Karli Lancaster, Timothy Maynard, Griffin McNeal, Justyn Morton, Nathan Mousser, Joseph Murray, Robert Nay, Rachel Olson, Christian Ordlock, Sylvanna Parra, Allison Perkins, Samantha Peters, Krysta Roberts, Breea Rogalla, Lona Rowland, Michael Schultz, Michael Semmens, Sterling Sharp, Megan Theiner, Dorian Tijerina, Maribel Tinajero, Brandon Trupp, Katelyn Tuma, Joseph Uszcienski, Haly Young

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

- 2 Walk-In Building Registration 11:00 am to 6:00 pm
- 8 Football practice starts 9:00—11:00 am
Volleyball try-outs 10:00 am—12:00 pm
- 16 NO SCHOOL—Teachers' Institute
- 17 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL—Dismissed at 11:30 am
- 18 Cheerleading try-outs 3:00 pm—4:30 pm
- 23 VB 8th Dundee/7th home
- 24 Fundraiser begins
- 25 VB 7th/8th home vs. Indian Creek
FB 7th Hiawatha/8th Rockford Lutheran