



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK—Mr. Lekkas

Bully Free School

Along with Character Counts and our PBIS Behavior programs, GKMS students talk openly and participate in lessons designed to help create a Bully Free GKMS.

February's lesson took place during the early release/conference days. Staff and students discussed the various aspects of what constitutes a bullying situation. Not all negative behaviors are bullying, however, many are.

Students then participated in various projects from an assignment menu visualizing and describing a Bully Free GKMS. There is no doubt in my mind that the combination of excellent parental support, a positive climate, education, and our great students all make a Bully Free school very possible.

NEWS FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL—Mr. McPherson

As we near spring, it seems like a good time to remind parents of the student-incentive programs we have in place here at Genoa-Kingston Middle School. Cogs Cards are a form of positive reinforcement used by our staff for kids. Students may receive a Cogs Card for a variety of reasons, but many times they obtain a Cogs Card through good deeds. These cards are an excellent form of reinforcement for CHARACTER COUNTS! as well. All of the Cogs Cards are submitted for monthly drawings that take place in lunch. Selected students win gift cards, t-shirts and other prizes. Great News postcards are yet another example of opportunities for staff to let parents know about their student engaging in a positive experience. These postcards are filled out by staff and sent home. Additionally, we have begun an award called the Extra-Degree Award to go along with a district theme called "The Extra Degree." Students are chosen by staff for this award based on one of three criteria:

1. Improvement in Academics, Behavior or Attendance,
2. Showing Good Character and
3. Outstanding Academic Achievement.

This award is done monthly and winners are posted in the display case as you come into the Middle School. Please feel free to discuss these student-incentive programs with your kids.

ISAT TESTING—March 8th through March 11th

March 8th through March 11th, all students will be participating in state required ISAT testing. Make-up testing will take place the following week. 6th and 8th grade students will test in the subjects of reading and math. 7th grade students will test in the subjects of reading, math and science. It is very important for your student to be in attendance and to be on time each day of testing. Also, please encourage your child to get a good night's sleep each night, eat a healthy breakfast and to try their best.

8TH GRADE DANCE—May 13, 2011

The GKMS Student Council is sponsoring a dance for all GKMS 8th grade student on Friday, May 13th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. ONLY students that attend GKMS and are currently in 8th grade are allowed to attend. The cost will be \$5.00 and tickets must be purchased in advance. Doors will not open until 7:00 p.m. and students must be picked up promptly at 9:00 p.m. Any parent is welcome to attend with their student.

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].

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH—FEBRUARY

Congratulations to our FEBRUARY

Students of the Month:

6th grade—MATTHEW MCCLUSKEY

7th grade—MITCHELL RAUSCH

8th grade—GRIFFIN MCNEAL



GKHS DRAMA PRESENTS SEUSSICAL: THE MUSICAL!

The Genoa-Kingston High School Drama and Music Departments remind you to mark March 11, 12, and 13 on your calendars. The spring musical at the high school this year is a heaping helping of family fun. It's *Seussical: The Musical!*

GK Drama unleashes the magical world of Dr. Seuss in a fast-paced show that will take you on a fun-filled adventure of imagination! GK Drama is planning a coloring contest next month, as well as a costume contest on each night of the show. There will be Dr. Seuss-themed raffles and cookies, too. Be sure not to miss this event!

DRAMA! DRAMA! DRAMA!

Auditions for the spring production will take place February 23rd, 24th, and 25th after school. There will be some morning audition times available by appointment if there is a scheduling conflict. Practices will be most days after school starting March 14th. The performance will take place April 29th and 30th at 7:00 pm. Your student needs to pick up an information packet containing audition information, a calendar and permission slip prior to auditions. Any questions? Email Mrs. Qualls Laben at aqualls@gkschools.org.

COMMUNICATIONS/CAREER EDUCATION—Miss Chronopoulos

We just completed our first session of the Communications/Careers class at GKMS. The six weeks went by fast and we got a lot accomplished. Parents can expect some papers to come home at the end of the session. These papers are resources for the students to use in the future...they are quite helpful as they contain information that can be used at the middle school, high school and college level. This packet will also contain your child's JA Certificate. All the documents will be placed in a handy plastic pouch for safe keeping and storage. Don't be surprised if your GKMS student asks you to help him/her practice their speech as this is one of the things they should do to get prepared. I'm having a lot of fun learning about all the different topics the students have chosen for their presentations. They sure do have a wide variety of interests...skydiving, animals, scrap booking, goat ear tagging, and how to make an omelette are just a few of the topics presented. Never a dull moment here at GKMS...it is a pleasure to work with your youngsters...they keep me on my toes.

FROM THE 6TH GRADE TEAM

Reading

Making Meaning is still the focus in Reading with functional texts. Students are identifying what they can learn from a functional text and exploring how functional text informs readers. Material covered includes theater schedules, middle school schedules, and a variety of reference materials. Also, students will be looking at editorial pages and distinguishing between fact and opinion statements. Likewise, students will be interpreting political cartoons and their hidden message. Then we will be directing our attention to historical fiction and science fiction in genre studies. Reviewing for the ISAT tests is now a priority.

Language Art

Students continue to write in their journals about the literature we are currently reading, as well as, the reading strategies covered in class. Soon they will be writing about cause and effect in expository text. We are improving our writing by including descriptive word choice along with figurative language, two features of the Six-Trait Writing program.

Math

We are going to continue with our work with measurements and units. We will also be getting back into some geometric shapes and their measurements(Perimeter, Area, and Volume). After our geometry and measurement units we will start an introduction into probability and date analysis.

Social Studies

Students have been studying Ancient Greece and will finish up with the **Chapter Test on Friday, February 25**. Then we will move westward and begin the Ancient Rome Unit. A strong republic with famous names including: Julius Caesar; Augustus; Jesus; and Constantine. The Roman Empire extended through parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa at its height.

FROM THE 7TH GRADE TEAM

Reading

Students will be working on finding supporting ideas, identifying reading strategy relationships and summarizing in expository texts. We will also continue with ISAT test preparation activities such as writing extended responses and reviewing vocabulary word analysis, literary techniques, literary genres and reading comprehension strategies.

Language Art

Students will be studying literary elements and figurative language through poetry. They will also practice their public speaking skills by creating and presenting a radio broadcast.

Math

As we head into spring, our primary focus will be performing operations with fractions and mixed numbers. We will also begin a unit on angles before break.

Social Studies

As we continue our long stretch until Spring Break we are concluding our study of Europe. We have gone from north to south and east to west – from Iceland to Italy and Portugal to Russia. We will finish our Europe unit on the 23rd. Before we head study the countries of the Middle East and North Africa we will examine the religions that have shaped the cultures that originated from the region. Through a multi-week computer project students will have the opportunity to research some of the world's religions and create a presentation on their findings. Knowing the basics of these different religious faiths will help us understand the religious divisions and conflicts that still affect the Middle East and Africa today. We will examine the Iraq War and the War in Afghanistan – their causes and where we are now. We will analyze the division between Israel and Palestine. And we will study the growing democratic movement in Arab countries like Egypt.

Science

In 7th grade Science we are ready to move on from plants and begin our study of the animal kingdom. There will be some research activities and presentations coming up soon. Ask you student about the coral reef!

FROM THE 8TH GRADE TEAM

Reading

We have been working on a lot of the same materials in both reading and language arts classes. We love the fact that we can continue our studies into the next class to expand our knowledge on the subjects that much more. In these classes, we are in the middle of studying different types of figurative language. We have covered the following figurative language concepts so far: adage, cliché, imagery, Allusion, symbolism, hyperbole, synecdoche, and metaphor. After we are done learning all the different types of figurative language, we will create three dimensional snowflakes to hang in the class room with winter figurative language examples on each side. We have also been practicing extended response questions to get prepared for ISAT. We have found that it is easier to create a graphic organizer before writing to ensure that all the correct material is being covered in our extended response answer. We have had great success in writing our extended responses and are excited about applying our skills during ISAT testing. We are continuing to work with word study and grammar on a weekly basis which has really helped us understand word origins, spelling and definitions, and their functions in a sentence. Word study and grammar have really opened our eyes to new words, which will not only help our writing, but also our communication skills with others.

Social Studies

The United States Constitution Test will be after Spring Break sometime in April. A definite date will be set in the next few weeks and an informational letter will be sent home with all students. In the meantime, students are reminded that they will need one pack (100) of index cards and at least 10 zip lock bags (sandwich size) and one heavy-duty gallon-size freezer bag. These supplies will be needed for the Constitution Unit that will begin the first week of March.

MUSIC NEWS—Mrs. Fromi

Genoa-Kingston Middle School will be hosting Solo & Ensemble contest on February 26th. F.A.B. is in the process of asking for Adult Volunteers needed to run a smooth contest.

If you are available to help please contact F.A.B. President - Pam Whittenhall at pwhitten@gkschools.org or M.S. Music Director – Sandra Fromi at sfromi@gkschools.org.

The GKMs and GKHS music departments proudly present the G-K Community Jazz Dance to be held on Saturday, April 16th. Swing dance lessons begin at 7:00 pm and the dance begins at 8:00 pm. There will be gourmet desserts and raffle prizes. Featuring music performed by GKMS/GKHS Jazz Bands and Jazz Vocals.

The Great America contest will be Saturday, May 21st. In order to properly prepare for the contest, music students will:

- * rehearse full chorus two days per week beginning on April 19th.
- * we will have several after school practices to rehearse as a full band and full chorus
- * concert performances are mandatory for all students. Students who do not attend their concert will not qualify to perform at Great America. Excused absences include death in family and ill and not in attendance at school the day of the concert.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS—Mrs. Sorensen

Once more Genoa Kingston Middle School was able to host a MINI CAREER FAIR which makes this the 11th annual Fair in recent years. Indeed it is a valuable experience for our students.

This year the Fair took place on February 18th. The students moved from room to room and listened to the various speakers who were invited to present information about their occupations and businesses. The students took notes and asked questions as they interacted with the participants.

It's never too early for youngsters to start thinking about their future, and experiences such as this are most helpful. Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves.

The participants included the following:

William Drake	<i>communications</i>	<u>WNIU</u>
Steve Naber	<i>engineer</i>	<u>Baxter & Woodman</u>
Chief Ty A. Lynch	<i>law enforcement</i>	<u>Genoa Police Department</u>
Miss Bridgitt	<i>hair stylist</i>	<u>“The Dungeon”</u>
Joe Misurelli	<i>city manager</i>	<u>City of Genoa</u>
Carolyn Canon	<i>picture framing</i>	<u>MCR Framing (DeKalb)</u>
Michael Groark	<i>gift shop</i>	<u>Cattywampus (Genoa)</u>
Ted Aretos	<i>chef, business owner</i>	<u>Corner Grill</u>

We at GKMS are grateful to all who took time out of their busy schedules to participate and share their experiences with our 8th graders. Your enthusiasm and willingness is what makes our MINI CAREER FAIR program a reality. We can't thank you enough and look forward to continuing this program in the future.

The next similar adventure will be the annual, county-wide Career Fair at Kishwaukee Community College on March 11th. This event is sponsored through the efforts of Kishwaukee College and the Education Consortium for the county's 8th graders. How fortunate we are to have these experiences available for our children because of some outstanding institutions and generous volunteers working together to help in the educational development of our students.

Thank you all again for your efforts on our behalf...it is appreciated.

GKMS ART CLUB—Mrs. Sorensen

The first meetings of GKMS ART CLUB were held in February. Several students signed up for this alternative extra-curricular activity group that promotes creative thinking.

Students will meet with Mrs. Sorensen most Thursdays after school from 3 to 4:00 pm.

Each participant has input as to the activities of the group and the products created will be displayed for the entire student body to enjoy.

Some of the ideas already discussed and/or created include: paper murals, constructing 3 D forms, painting, and creating theme images.

Look for ART CLUB-generated art in the school in addition to curricular products to enhance our learned, cultural surroundings

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS—Mrs. Sorensen

“THINK SPRING” reminders:

- It is not too early to plan your gardens and begin seedling starts. Make it a family activity. Seeds are readily available for your basic garden fare from Wal-Mart and dollar stores to heirloom and specialty varieties online.
- Bring some of your snow mounds inside in buckets for plant watering after thawing, or for washing or rinsing clothes.
- Take a trip to Chicago and skate in the warmer air, but in the ambiance of Millennium Park Rink. Not a skater? It is great fun just to watch others do, or even to watch the Zamboni work its magic as it repairs the ice during breaks a couple of times each day. WE LOVE CHICAGO!
- Keep a watch on bird feeders as birds return to the area. Journal your discoveries.
- Stop feeding the birds after the snow has completely melted. This will encourage them to find natural, indigenous foods that help them fight disease. TWEEDELE-DEE-DEE!
- Remind drivers to watch for “black ice” on frozen early morning roads this time of year. SAFE TRAVELS TO ALL!
- **HAPPY SPRING!**

CALENDAR FOR MARCH

- 1 BB—MNC Tourney at GKMS
- 3 BB—MNC Tourney at GKMS
- 5 FBS Individuals
- 7 Band/Chorus cheesecake orders due
- 8 ISAT's start
- School Board Committee Meeting
- PTO Little Ceasars' pizza pick-up 3:30-6:00 pm
- 11 End of 3rd Quarter
- Career Fair—Kishwaukee College
- 14 Drama practice begins after school till 4:30 pm
- 15 School Board meeting
- 16 Early Release at 1:45 pm
- Cheesecake delivery
- 17 Reports cards sent home
- Market Day delivery
- 17 7th grade COGS day
- 21-25 NO SCHOOL—Spring Break

IMPORTANT DATES:

Report Cards sent home: March 17, 2011 and the last day of school

Progress Reports sent home: April 19, 2011.

MUSIC DATES

February 26—Solo and Ensemble Contest at GKMS

March 1st—March 7th—cheesecake orders start

March 8—FAB meeting

March 11th—13th—GKHS "Suessical the Musical"

March 16th—cheesecake delivery date

April 16th—GKHSGKMS Jazz Bands and Jazz Vocalists at GKHS 7:00 pm

May 9th—5th -8th grade Band concert at GKMS 7:00 pm

May 16—MS/HS Chorus concert at GKHS 7:00 pm

May 21st—Great America contest