



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK—Mr. Lekkas

We have just completed our third year of MAP testing. We have reached a point where meaningful progress monitoring can take place for each student and consistent growth can be measured.

MAP testing differs from other testing formats in several significant ways. Of greatest importance is that the computer program allows students to continue to answer increasingly difficult questions without topping out until they have reached their highest level. All staff used the October 8th institute day to analyze data for EACH student and create strategies for improvement in both Math and Reading. Such attention to each student will help ensure educational goals are met.

NEWS FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL—Mr. McPherson

Attendance is often a hot topic of discussion among parents. While having our kids in school is extremely important, we also understand that kids will occasionally have to be absent from school. Below is some information that may help parents understand our policies towards attendance:

- Research shows that students perform at a higher academic level when they are in attendance on a regular basis.
- The law states that our students must be in school, or have a valid reason for being absent.
- According to the Illinois School Code, schools can mark students excused for the following reasons: illness, funeral, observance of a religious holiday, family emergency, reasonable safety/health concerns, or situations beyond the control of the student approved by the superintendent, principal or designee.
- Schools are required to mark students excused or unexcused based on these guidelines, which is why secretaries must ask why your child is missing school.
- Schools receive funding from the state based partially on our average daily attendance rate. In essence, the more days our students attend school, the more money we get from the state.

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GK CUSD #424 Board Policy states schools must send home letters upon excused absences of 5, 9 and 17 days. The Dekalb County Truancy Intervention Program will be notified at 9 days and 18 days of unexcused absences.

As educators, we only want what is best for our students. We hope the schools and families can work together in this endeavor. If you have any questions about attendance or any other issue, please do not hesitate to call me at 815-784-5222, ext.13.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH—OCTOBER

Congratulations to our October Students
of the Month:

6th grade—ZACH BUTLER

7th grade—TOMMY LUCCA

8th grade—BRETT DEVINE



CONFERENCE PROCEDURES—Mr. Lekkas

Dear GKMS Families, conference day is Thursday, November 4. Over the years, I have been asked many questions regarding conference day at the Middle School. Below are some of the most common questions and answers. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Franz, Mr. McPherson, any of your student's teachers, or me through email, phone (784-5222), or stop in the office. Email addresses are available on the school Webpage.

Conference Day FAQ's

Why was I not contacted for a conference?

Due to time constraints, our staff can not meet with all families on conference day.

Can I arrange for a November 4th conference?

Certainly. Please call or stop in. However, it may be that all meeting times are full, in which case, an alternative date can be arranged.

Can I arrange for a conference to be held on a day other than November 4th?

Absolutely. Many conferences have already been held at GKMS. Teams can be made available to discuss your student's progress and successes.

Who will I meet with in a conference?

Generally, we meet with grade-level teams. Having your student's teachers together allows us to explore strategies that work in one environment and use those strategies to achieve success in other areas of the school day.

Why was I contacted for a conference if my student is doing well?

Communication is an important part of continued success. We meet with families whenever possible.

RED RIBBON WEEK HITS GKMS—Mrs. Franz and Mrs. Hencken



During the week of October 25th, students at Genoa-Kingston Middle School participated in activities for Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week began 25 years ago and is a way for students, staff and the community to take a stand against drugs. Students participated in theme days and were encouraged to participate to show their support in living a drug free lifestyle. Monday was “Give Drugs the Slip”- wear slippers to school day. Tuesday was “Sock it to Drugs”- crazy sock day. Also on Tuesday, DCP Safe students came over from the high school during student lunch hours to facilitate educational games/activities with our students. Wednesday was “Don’t Let Drugs Turn You Inside Out”- wear your clothing inside out. Thursday was “COGS Don’t Do Drugs”- show your support by wearing your favorite COGS wear to school. Students participated in an all school assembly. Karl Randall presented to our students the importance of making good choices and being a good role model. At the age of 17, Karl lost his eye sight when he was in a drug-related automobile accident. He spent a year in the hospital recovering and now speaks to students of all ages about the importance of making good decisions and how decisions made today can affect their entire future. He also discusses how students do not have to compromise themselves to fit in with others.

THANK YOU FROM STUDENT COUNCIL

Thank you to all students who donated boxed and canned foods to support the Genoa Food Pantry. This organization services only families in our Genoa and Kingston area that need help and we are proud to help donate to such a worthy cause.

HAT, GLOVES, MITTEN AND SCARF DRIVE—Student Council

The GKMS Student Council will be collecting new or nearly new hats, gloves, mittens, and scarfs to be donated to the Genoa Food Pantry to be distributed to local families in need of such items. There will be a tree in the front hallway that items collected can be placed on from November 15th- December 15th. Donations are welcome.

WONDERFUL WORLD OF CHRISTMAS—November 7, 2010

The Genoa Community Women’s Club is hosting the Wonderful World of Christmas on November 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with a visit from Santa 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. It will be held at Genoa Kingston High School and proceeds benefit the Genoa Community Women’s Club scholarship fund. This event will feature local and out of town crafters, local clubs, organizations and businesses, food and door prizes. Admission is \$1.00 for adults and 50 cents for students. For booth space call Nancy 815-761-0515.



FROM THE 6TH GRADE TEAM

Reading/Language Arts—Reading classes continue to learn new comprehension strategies in Making Meaning. Included in this month will be asking questions before, during, and after reading passages, stories, and novels. Also, extended reading responses will be used to respond to some of the literature in class. A part of these responses will delve into making meaningful connections to the text and supporting these connections with extensions. Another aspect of Making Meaning is the cooperative structures used to focus on social development in class. Listening and speaking will include (1) think-pair-share, (2) turn-to-your-partner, and (3) ways to respectfully disagree and agree with classmates. Students continue to use writing connections in their reading logs or journals as they read for enjoyment and appreciate quality literature. Ever present is the need for students to apply word knowledge and new vocabulary to their reading and writing

In Language Arts, writing traits include ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions. Aligning the traits of writing with the revision and editing process is important as we write persuasive essays and review narrative and expository writing. Other writing will include narrative dialogue as well as writing opportunities using figurative language such as similes, metaphors, and personification. Students should strive to use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation in all of their written work for their best effort at communication and presentation.

Math—We will be starting Topic 4 that involves working with equality and equations. We will learn the different properties that go along with equality and equations and then work on solving equations involving the four main operations. After our topic on equality we will begin Topic 5 that introduced rules for divisibility and fractions. Topic 5 will be a great lead into our next few topics that deal with fractions and all their operations.

Social Studies—Classes started learning about the beginnings of civilization in the Fertile Crescent. This area now covers the present-day countries of Israel, Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq. Our textbook points out that farmers living between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers built an irrigation system to grow crops. This area developed a system of writing called cuneiform and built cities such as Kish and Ur. The leaders that made a difference in the civilization around Sumer included Sargon and Hammurabi. In northern Mesopotamia a city-state developed called Babylon and it is here where Hammurabi wrote the world's oldest codes of law. During this unit Northern Illinois University clinical student teachers will be teaching parts of lessons including religion in ancient Sumer.

Science - Classes will be finishing the study of the atmosphere. Monday, October 25, 2010 we will begin a study of the weather. Both Mrs. Hanssen and Mr. Johnsen will have NIU clinical student teachers assisting and teaching during a portion of this unit.

Lorado Taft

There are many students who have not turned in their permission slips and health forms for Lorado Taft. Please check with your student or call Mrs. Hanssen if you are unsure whether or not this paper work has been turned in. As a reminder, the fee of \$55.00 is due November 1, 2010.

FROM THE 7TH GRADE TEAM

Reading/Language Arts—Students will continue working on answering questions both explicitly and implicitly. Students will apply the Question and Answer Relationships (QAR) when answering questions, so that they can understand the different levels of question types. Students will also be making inferences and visualizing while reading poetry.

In Language Arts, students will be practicing writing expository texts. As a part of their practice, they will be writing in response to prompts to identify the following elements: causes and effects, problems and solutions, sequencing, and enumerative details.

Math—As we move ahead into second quarter, we will begin a long unit centered on geometric shapes and geometric vocabulary. Students continue to excel in their study teams and are demonstrating a very strong work ethic to work cooperatively and solve difficult problems. Keep up the great work students!!

Social Studies—We have had a fantastic first quarter. As a whole we did extremely well on our tests. With the new quarter, we are moving quickly through the geography of the United States and Canada. Students are learning how to read and take notes from the textbook using the social sciences as a guide. The day before we talk about a country in class the students will outline the section of the book that talks about that country as homework. Having done this pre-reading and notes, the next day we will discuss a current event or issue in the news about that country. The learning curve for them to take their own notes is a little high. But with a little patience and perseverance I know we will do fine.

We will also continue to take map quizzes and tests. We will take quizzes over the U.S. states. We will also take a quiz over the physical features of North America. The website: www.nationalgeographic.com/geospy is an excellent tool for students to memorize states and countries. We will be practicing geospy at school a day or two before each quiz. Encourage your children at home using this effective and free internet “game.”

And students will soon be learning how to earn extra credit by contributing to our class blog. Students will be allowed to post one entry per week for 2 points of extra credit at www.mccunegeography.blogspot.com.

Science—Cells, cell structures, cell functions... Life Science has been busy! What did your student see through the compound lenses of the microscopes, especially in the “swamp” water? Now we are investigating the processes of the cell and next it will be cellular division and heredity. Your student may ask you to stick out your tongue or to look closely at your ears...what will he or she find? Stay tuned to find out! Remember that the entire text is accessible online and has extra features that can extend learning. The website and access code are: http://glencoe.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0078617022/student_view0/ Access Code: C2AC4656F7.

FROM THE 8TH GRADE TEAM

Social Studies—As we enter into the 2nd Quarter, students will begin to focus specifically on English colonization of North America. We started off in Jamestown (ask your student about some of the hardships faced by those

settlers! Yikes!) We are now heading north to Plymouth Plantation to study the Pilgrims and their motivations for coming to North America. We will then begin to examine all of the thirteen original colonies: their history, customs, way of life and economies. As we do this, we will start to identify the differences between the English government and the colonial way of life thereby getting a preview of the revolution to come.

Science—Currently in 8th grade science we are finishing up our unit on motion and speed. We have learned velocity, time and acceleration are related. We have represented on a line graph both the speed and acceleration of an object. We have identified the difference between positive and negative acceleration. And, we have calculated the speed, velocity and acceleration of objects in real world situations using the appropriate mathematical formula.

In the coming weeks we will be investigating Newton's Laws of Motion. We will learn that these laws explain the movement of all of the objects in our day to day lives. We will understand the natural forces that cause objects to change their motion such as Gravity and friction. And, we will apply mathematical calculations to every day situations to find unknown values of force, mass or acceleration.

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!

STUDY SKILLS—Ms. Chronopoulos

All classes are working well on their various projects and our JA program is in full swing thanks to our volunteers who take time to work with our students. The 6th graders are learning about the details of the 9 basic topics while the 7th graders are reviewing and preparing to work on the booklet project. The 8th graders do a brief review and do a bookmark project to complete their study of the topics. There is one more session for each grade level which will begin after November 7th. At that point all GKMS students will have completed their SSK program. One program that we are particularly excited about is Career Cruising. This program uses a website which is filled with information about careers and other related topics. Students are introduced to the program in 6th grade and have an opportunity to work with the program throughout their GKMS experience. This will enable them to be quite familiar with the program upon entering High School. Every student is now able to work with the program except for two classes of 6th graders who have yet to be in SSK class and any students who are new to GKMS...they will get this information early in November and then we'll all be "on board". Please encourage your student to share this program with you at home. All that needs to be done is to find the site. www.careercruising.com, then the user enters "gkms" for the user name and "cogs" for the password to get into the program. The final step is for the user to enter their student ID # preceded by the letters "gk" for the user name and then they enter their personal password.....LOGIN success! Should you have further questions, please contact Miss Chronopoulos at bchronop@gkschools.org. Happy Cruising!

VISUAL ARTS—Mrs. Sorensen

FINE ARTS ARE ALL AROUND US!

The autumn finds the students at GKMS involved in their usual, packed art classroom curriculum as well as immersed in self-expression through varied extra-curricular activities.

October has seen students direct the design of our yearbook cover by contributing original drawings that will be montaged into one image in our district orange and blue.

Students have also had the opportunity to develop ideas to enter the Lions Club International Peace Poster contest this fall.

Individuals also show their support for other causes using visual arts during RED RIBBON WEEK, and our school concerts, as well as by creating visual products in many of their CORE classes.

Look for Encore to rotate to the final session of the semester November 4th. Students will have another complete rotation of Visual art, Study Skills and Business Technology in the spring.

Enjoy a beautiful and creative season!

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS—Mrs. Sorensen

FIVE FABULOUS FALL FACILITATIONS:

1. Keep your plants happy by raking your leaves under shrubs. This will prevent moisture from escaping and nourish your plants during the early growing season next spring.
2. Empty your rain barrels into empty, cleaned milk jugs. Store them in an out-of-the-way place for watering indoor plants during the winter.
3. Gather a bucket of fireplace ashes for use to prevent slipping and skidding on ice in your car or walkway.
4. Microbes and worms LOVE pumpkin flesh. Feed your used, carved pumpkins to your compost bin... Your compost will be so rich it will be SCARY!
5. Hang onto your fall Indian corn and gourds until next year to reuse them. Mrs. Sorensen has some of the same Indian corn she's had hanging up for over five years. When it finally fades, compost that, too!

Happy Autumn!

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

2	BB 8th Harvard/7th home		6th grade at Lorado Taft—1st group
3	Sports Pictures 3:00 pm	18	BB 8th North Boone/7th home
4	PT Conferences/Dismiss at 11:30 am		6th grade at Lorado Taft—1st group
	Encore 2 ends	19	6th grade at Lorado Taft—1st group
5	NO SCHOOL/PT Conferences/Teacher Institute	22	BB 8th home/7th Kirkland
8	BB 8th Dundee/7th home		6th grade at Lorado Taft—2nd group
9	School Board Committee Meeting	23	School Board Meeting
	BB 7/8 Elgin Westminster		BB 7/8 home vs Indian Creek
11	Market Day/Student Council helps		6th grade at Lorado Taft—2nd group
	BB 8th home/7th Riley	24	Early Release Day at 1:45 pm
12	BB 7/8 Oregon Tournament		6th grade at Lorado Taft—2nd group
13	BB 7/8 Oregon Tournament	25	LSH—Happy Thanksgiving
15	BB 8th Stillman Valley/7th home	26	Not in Attendance
16	Progress Reports sent home	29	MS Band Concert at 7:00 pm
	BB 8th Prairie Grove/7th home		BB 8th home/7th North Boone
17	Early Release Day at 1:45 pm	30	BB 8th Hampshire/7th home

IMPORTANT DATES

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

Progress Reports sent home: November 16, 2010, February 8, 2011 and April 19, 2011.

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

December—Cherryvale Mall Performance for Jazz Band and Chorus TBA

G-K Parents!

Please post this on your refrigerator as a reminder to collect & send the following to school with your children! Thank-you!



www.kemps.com/Promo/Default.aspx?id=145 Earns Cash for our schools!



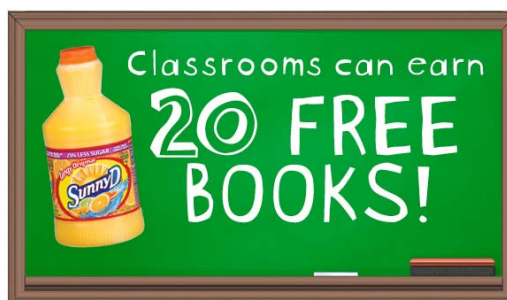
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Earns Academic, Art & Athletic supplies for our schools! Info on bottles/boxes.

GK PTO volunteers collect & submit the items above to help support our schools! Saving these items HELPS A LOT!

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