



GES Newsletter

October 2011
Quarterly Winter News

Volume 14, No. 1

Principal's Corner

Mr. John Fast, Principal



On Monday, Oct. 24 we will be having parent/teacher conferences. Your child's teacher will be sending home a notice with a time for the conference. We encourage you to sign the note and return, confirming the conference time. This is an important time to hear from your child's teacher how your child is doing in school. Your child's teacher will, of course, discuss the grades the child has earned, but will also discuss observations regarding work habits, progress and how they are getting along with their peers. Many parents want to know how they can help their child achieve in school and it is appropriate to ask for ideas and suggestions. In some cases, it may be helpful to maintain periodic communication to follow up on helping a child in certain areas. In any case, we welcome communication with parents and encourage you to visit with our staff whenever you may have a question or a concern.

Kindergarten

Mrs. Sheri Janzen, Teacher



The Goessel Kindergarten has 20 children this year. We spent the first few weeks getting to know each other and learning the routine of being in school. We have talked about shapes and colors and how to be a good friend. We will be working with letter sounds and spend a lot of our time playing with words and sounds and trying to understand this big idea of **READING!** In Math we have worked with writing numbers, recognizing numbers and counting items to five. Below is a little introduction to each new student.

Eli likes to watch Word Girl and Wild Kratz on TV. His favorite food is spaghetti and meatballs and he has 3 sisters and 1 brother in his family.



Jaicee likes to play with her dog T-Bone. He favorite food is corn on the cob and she likes to go shopping at Walmart.

Klay likes to ride horses and play with his toy tractors. His favorite color is red.

Cambry likes to cook with her mom and read with her brother. She will be starting gymnastics soon.

Noah likes to eat colorful sherbet, he has 4 people in his family and he likes to go camping with his Grandma and Grandpa Schrag and his Uncle Andy.

Jake likes to play in the fort his dad built for him and he likes playing basketball. He has a dog named Lucy and a cat named Bower that pretends to box.

Riley likes to play at the park and slide down the pole. He likes spending nights at his grandparents and he can make his own jelly sandwiches.

Nicholas likes to eat at McDonalds. He likes to play games on the computer and his mom reads a book to him every night.

Liberty is good at Art and likes to draw polka dots and hearts. Her favorite food is macaroni and cheese and she likes to go to the park with her brothers and sisters.

Thomas is good at coloring and writing. He likes going to bed and waking up in the morning. His favorite place to go is school.



Rachel likes to play with cars and trucks and she has a dog named Henry. She likes to help her mom make cookies.

Javin can do 3 somersaults at one time. When he goes to the lake he likes to collect shells and his favorite color is blue.

Collin likes to go camping and fishing. He likes to play Donkey Kong Country Returns with his sister.

Alyson is a good friend because she likes getting to know other people. She likes to col-



KD found the gingerbread man!

lect precious things like snow globes. Her favorite place to eat is Arby's and her favorite color is pink.

Chey has 3 dogs and 1 cat. He likes to play Frisbee with Bo and Cody, the big dogs, and he feeds them food and he likes to collect cool rocks.

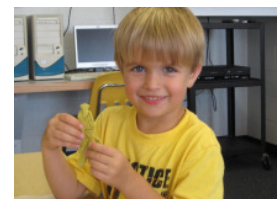
Alece is good at swimming and she likes to go to the water park. She likes to snuggle with her dog MJ. She is going to gymnastics.

Wade likes to read books with his brother and sister. His favorite food is meat pizza and he likes to ride his bike at the park.

Faith likes to go fishing and play UNO with her dad. She likes to go walking with her mom. She has a big brother and a little sister and 2 dogs.

Summer likes to swing with her friends. She likes to play hide and seek with her mom. Her favorite color is purple and she likes to hug her kitty.

Layne likes to ride his dirt bike and he and his sister like to play with monster trucks and cars. He collects hot rod cars and his favorite food is cheeseburgers.





1st Grade

*Mrs. Barb Goering,
Teacher*



The first graders are off to a great start. We're enjoying learning the routines of the first grade classroom, which involve some changes from kindergarten; such as sitting at desks instead of tables, having the whole class eat lunch, enjoying two recesses, as well as having p.e. every day, learning how to read, add, and spell. We also have been having a great time watching caterpillars grow and change into chrysalises and then into butterflies. Some of us even got to watch a caterpillar eat it's way out of an egg! We've had some caterpillars die, but most have turned into chrysalises, and five have become butterflies. There are still nine chrysalises in the process of transforming.

The students wrote sentences telling what they enjoy doing at school. P.E. is obviously the most popular.

Sam, Kacen, Brett, Grant, Sarah, Jake, Nathaniel, Justin, Sara, and Jacob all wrote that they like p.e. at school.

Here were the other choices:

I like lunch at school. *Patrick*

I like to have fun at school. *Caleb*

I like computers at school. *Jasmine*

I like the garden at school. *Madison*

I like the butterfly cage. *Travis*

I like music at school. *Emma*

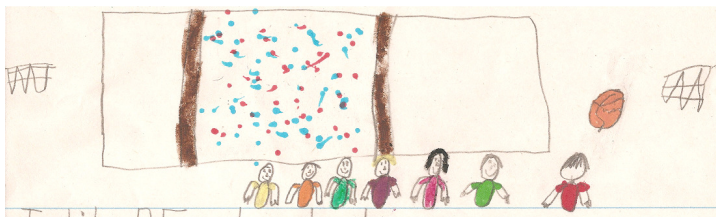
I like lunch at school. *Mallory*

I like looking at caterpillars. *Brandon*

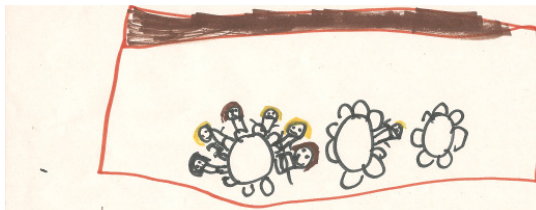
I like centers at school. *Ashley*



By Kacen



By Justin



By Mallory



By Brandon





2nd Grade

Mrs. Ann Hiebert,
Mrs. Schroeder, Teachers



We love gardening!

What a beautiful start to fall! The second graders have been busy getting back into the swing of school. The class consists of 16 boys and 15 girls-the largest class in our school district this year! That is 124 hands and feet and 620 fingers and toes all in one room...WOW!! It's a good thing there are two teachers to share this job part of the day!

We started the year by learning about and discussing five concept words that will be part of our classroom language for the whole year. Respect, cooperation, honesty, responsibility, and self-discipline are the five words. We read books and did activities that helped reinforce these concepts. An on-going activity we are doing to promote cooperation is collecting coins for *Pennies for Peace*. It is an organization that promotes world peace by building schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Education provides children of these countries with hope for a better future. We hope to fill our jar by the end of the year. We have a good start!

Kindness is the theme of our first reading unit. The stories are helping us think about being thoughtful friends and how we can show kindness in many different situations. We are also increasing our vocabulary, improving our reading strate-

gies, and working on our fluency. We are going to be fantastic readers by the end of the year!

English time finds us learning about the writing process. We have written some poems using poetry frames. We've also done some journal writing and are working on fairy tales and action tales right now. The creative ideas are flying around everywhere!

Numbers and operations are keeping our brains busy in math. We have already worked with numbers to 100, number patterns, and comparing and ordering numbers. Addition and subtraction strategies will be our next unit to tackle.

Living things have piqued our interest in science. Reptiles, birds, fish, and amphibians are all unique and wonderful creatures. Plants will be the topic of the next chapter. The school garden will be a great place to apply this knowledge.

We look forward to learning many new things together this year!



3rd Grade

*Mr. Dale Wiens,
Teacher*



Our class has twenty-one students this year. Several students have already shared their photos and special items from home during their "All About Me" week. Birthdays are always fun especially when the kids show off their birthday dance moves. We will enjoy the Rolling Hills Zoo near Salina on Oct. 6. This matches up well with our study of animals in science.

We also studied the Goessel community to start the year. The students learned about our town by visiting Goessel's Internet web site. Students created their own cities. Their task was to decide what businesses, city services, factories, and types of entertainment to have in their towns. They arranged the shapes, gave each a name, and arranged them onto a poster-size city grid. Homes and parks were also mixed in.

Here are the student comments about what they like about Goessel and what they would change or add to our town if they could.

Neviah: I like our town because it has a park. I wish we had a swimming pool.

Luke: I like Goessel because it's a small town. I would like to see a Deere Trail shop come to town.

Katherine: Goessel is fun because it has Keith's Foods. A skating rink would make our town even better.

Tate: Goessel is a quiet town, and I like that. I think we should add a shooting range.

Dawson D.: Goessel is great because it has a bank. I would like it to have a lake and climbing walls.

Jessica: I think Goessel is great because it is small. I think our town needs a bigger park.

Christian: Goessel is a small town but the people have a big heart. I would like the Kansas State basketball team to play here.

Kami: I like Goessel because it is quiet and really fun. I wish there was a swimming pool and movie theater to enjoy.

Daylon: Goessel is cool because we have a wonderful school. I wish we also had a big climbing wall.

Elizabeth: I like the wonderful people in our town. I would like to have an ice skating rink and animal park.



Garrett: I like our town because of its park. I would like to add a hunting store.

Cassandra: I love Goessel because the people are very nice and we have a good park. I would like a free animal park and a hotel for dogs.

Roy: I like the Goessel library and park. I wish Goessel would have a movie theater.

Bethany: Goessel is great because of the wonderful library. We should have a motel and a swimming pool.



Jordan: Goessel is the best place to live because it is safe. I wish our town had a water park so we could swim.

Makayla: I love Goessel because of the GRC activities. I wish our town had a shopping mall.

Jake: Goessel is fun because we have a good school. I would like to have a swimming pool.

Berlin: I like our town because the people have a big heart. I want our town to have a skating rink, Wal-Mart, and bowling alley.

Kale: Goessel is great because it has a great school. Goessel needs a Cabela's.

Dawson S.: The grade school has a great playground. I wish there was an ice cream spot.

Gage: I like our walking and biking path in town. We should have a skating rink, mall, and bowling alley.



4th Grade

Mr. Tom Krehbiel, Teacher



Midnight swims at Camp Menno-scah

Riding on the combine with my grandpa

Moved to a great new house, town, and school

Making a toy robot and then blowing it up with a firecracker



The most awesome thing was going to Colorado

A sleepover with a friend

Walking a couple of miles with my dad

Sliding down a huge water slide

Swimming in the Great Lakes, it was freezing

Going to the fair and earning over \$20

I had so much fun playing Farming Simulator 2011

Staying up till midnight at a sleepover

Going to Colorado and making new friends

Cooking fish with my mom

I had a great experience in Massachusetts with my cousin

Playing Wii, watching movies, and staying up all night

Playing with my American Girl Doll

Seeing the steaming Old Faithful

Going to Texas TWO TIMES

Going to the pool with my friends

Playing at Grandma's house, it was fun



Library

Mr. Russell Pauls, Librarian



This summer was a big change for the elementary school library. New carpet and a new paint job started off the changes. Shelves and books were rearranged, and a new counter for computers was built. Londell also built a new checkout desk for us to use. The students were excited to see the new library when school started in August. It's a whole new room!

Exciting events are coming up soon in the library. The annual book fair will be here from Friday, October 21 through Wednesday, October 26. More information to come on the book fair as it gets closer. Also, the first Accelerated Reader store is coming in November. First through fifth grade students will be able to spend their hard-earned points.

Never a dull moment in the elementary library. Come on by!



Kindergartners become Library Monsters





5th Grade

Mrs. Abrahams,
Teacher

Twenty-one fifth graders entered the classroom on a hot August day ready to learn. Eating their way through new math concepts, experiencing the sounds of new science experiments, and learning to play instruments have kept them busy. Read on to find out "what's up" in fifth grade.

What's up in science? We're finding out science doesn't have to be boring. This year we have already done some interesting and exciting experiments. They include; Bouncing Balloon, Can Crush, and Melting Peanuts. Check out the school website to see the Bouncing Balloon experiment.

What's up in reading? During the first two weeks of school we worked with chocolate in many different subjects. In reading, the class read a short book entitled, *Chocolate Fever*.



What's up in math? In math we looked for chocolate chips in cookie, counted, weighed, measured, and graphed them and finally got to eat what was left. We made no bake cookies and learned about fractions. Check out the school website to see pictures of 5th graders doing different activities.



practicing and playing as a complete band.

What's up for the next several months? Lots of learning and loads of fun!

Submitted by Fifth Grade Class Members



What's up in Robotics and computer? Every Tuesday and Thursday we either go to computer or Robotics. In Robotics we are learning how to build and program a robot called a Roverbot. In computer we are doing Mavis Beacon.



What's up in band? All of us our doing band this year. Right now we are taking individual lessons. Some of us took lessons from Mr. Tierney during the summer. In several weeks we will begin



Staff Interview by

Aliyah Tighe, Student
Ms. Jody Schmidt, Teacher



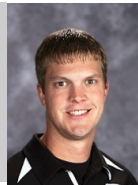
and traveling are some of Mrs. Schroeder's hobbies. Chocolate is her favorite food. Mrs. Schroeder shared that she is loving the second grade. Her advice to the students at Goessel Elementary is to do your best and don't forget to laugh!



This quarter, our featured staff member is Mrs. Schroeder. This is Mrs. Schroeder's first year teaching second grade teacher at Goessel Elementary. She is married to Dan Schroeder and has a dog named Gilly. Cooking, making jewelry,

P.E. /Health Computer

Mr. Joe Biggs, Teacher



The students are out to impress this year at Goessel Elementary. In the first nine weeks several records have been broken, many skills learned, and some intense football games have been going on. So far this year students have worked on throwing, catching, locomotor skills, football, and their fitness. Coming up in the next few weeks students will enjoy volleyball, some different outdoor games, soccer, and cup stacking. If you're interested in what's going on in the Elementary PE program check out the Goessel webpage under Elementary PE. Here you should find information, pictures, and some videos of the kids at work!



Vocal Music

Mrs. Marcia Brubaker,
Teacher



Open the Window to Music!

Like a breath of fresh air, we've opened the window to music at Goessel Elementary!

Each grade has been busy learning new songs and learning new concepts of music. Older classes are building on the knowledge from previous years. Kindergarteners are studying fast and slow beats and learning to call them *tempo*s. They have also learned about four different voices that each child has and we've practiced using all of them. First graders are working with melodies and how they move (up, down, stay the same) and learning about the importance of the steady beat in music. Second graders have been matching words and rhythms and learned a dance to *Country Gardens*. Third graders have practiced more complex patterns of melodies (up, down, stay the same) and learned to sing *The Star-Spangled Banner*. Fourth and fifth graders learn music theory at their own pace through *Music Ace* in the computer lab. They've also worked at developing a strong singing sound.

This is one window that will stay open all year! Goessel students are the greatest when it comes to music!





Counselor's Corner

Mrs. Janna Duerksen



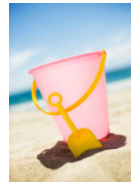
Have you filled your bucket today?

HAVE YOU FILLED A BUCKET TODAY? Elementary students have been introduced to the concept of being bucket fillers! The "bucket" represents a child's mental and emotional health. You can't see the bucket, but it's there. In addition to being loved, children must also be taught how to love others. Children who learn how to express kindness and love lead happier lives. When you care about others and show that with what you say and do, you feel good and you fill your own bucket too.

On the other hand, you can also dip into a bucket and take out some good feelings. When you make fun of someone, say or do mean things, ignore, or bully, you are a bucket dipper. You never fill your own bucket when you dip into someone else's.

Students have been challenged to look for ways to fill buckets at school, at home, and in the community. Happy bucketfilling!!!

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please contact me at the school.



Title I

Mrs. Mary Schmidt, Teacher



Get in Gear

The school year is already a month old! It feels good to be here working with the students again. It's also time for families to "get in gear" to read with their children as well as set a time for doing homework.

Here are just a few tips for finding that reading time and "getting in gear".

1. Reading gets better with practice, so encourage your child to read everyday.
2. Make reading easier by putting books on a low shelf, or have a bookshelf in each bedroom.
3. Set aside at least 10 minutes every day to read with your child. More is even better!
4. Look for unusual places for your daily reading time, like outside on the deck, or under a sheet using the dining room chairs to make a tent.
5. Squeeze reading into your busy day by reading aloud during breakfast, or even during bath time. Just think how clean your child could get!
6. Try to limit your child's TV time. Research shows that kids who spend more than 10 hours a week watching TV have a harder time reading.

These are a few ideas from the Parent Institute. Contact me if you'd like more ways to help your child succeed in school.

COMING EVENTS

Goessel Elementary

**We're on the
web usd411.org**



We have SPIRIT!

OCTOBER 6—3rd Grade Field Trip.

OCTOBER 14, 12:30—END OF FIRST 9 WEEKS; DISMISS FOR TEACHER INSERVICE

OCTOBER 21-26—GES SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

OCTOBER 24, 12:30 — DISMISS FOR PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES.

OCTOBER 25—LIFETOUCH RETAKES; HEARING RE-SCREENS AND SCOLIOS SCREENING FOR 5TH GRADE GIRLS.

OCTOBER 28—NO SCHOOL; TEACHER COMP DAY

OCTOBER 31—HALLOWEEN PARTIES, 10 A.M. KD; 2 P.M. GR. 1-5.

NOVEMBER 9, 12:30—DISMISS FOR TEACHER INSERVICE

NOVEMBER 22—3RD GRADE GRANDPARENT DAY

NOVEMBER 23, 12:30 P.M.—DISMISS FOR THANKSGIVING BREAK

catch us in action...

