



GES Newsletter

February 2010 News

Volume 12, No. 2

Principal's Corner

Mr. John Fast, Principal



State assessments are just around the corner for grades 3, 4, and 5. Grades 3 and 5 will be administering reading and math, and grade 4 will be administering reading, math and science this year. It is important for our school that our students do the best they can. Teachers have been preparing them, teaching the objectives that will be covered so students can be successful. Most of these assessments will be administered in March, with the 4th grade science assessment being administered late in April. You can help by making sure your child has a good night of rest and a hearty breakfast. Encourage your child to do their best but don't pressure them. Final results for the school are usually announced in the fall.



Kindergarten

Mrs. Sheri Janzen, Teacher



We celebrated the 100th day of Kindergarten on Thursday, Feb. 4th. We wrote poems about 100, made a book about 100, counted to 100 in different ways, ate a snack of 100 items, made placemats with 100 stickers, hunted for 100 chocolate kisses, read several books about the 100th day of school, and brought in a collection of 100 things. Some of our collections included pennies, straws, books, beads, coins, pieces of toilet paper, candy hearts, nails, cars, dinosaur stickers, lego blocks, buttons, macaroni noodles, chocolate chips, cotton balls, animals, marbles, beads, and drops of food coloring. Mrs. Janzen's collection was 100 kids from our school!

The following is a combination of our 100 days poems.

I wish I had 100...

Brianna wants 100 friends.
Zach wants 100 toys.
Gunnar wants 100 trucks.
Cassoday wants 100 candy hearts.
David wants 100 pennies.

I could lift 100...

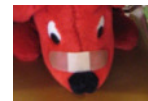
Ivory thinks she could lift 100 balls.
Saphire could lift 100 barbell weights.
Skyler could lift 100 cars.
Logan W. could lift 100 bucks.

If I had 100 dollars I would buy...

Lyna would buy food.
Annalise would buy clothes.
Devin would buy toys.
Rhett would buy pieces of bubble gum.
Samantha would buy toy kids.

Having 100 of this could really be a problem...

Jevin said centipedes.
Dylan said apples.
Riley said pieces of candy.
Elsie said grasshoppers.
Kaleigh said kids.



In 100 years I hope I can...

Logan S. hopes to swim.
Emily hopes to drive a car.
Jacob hopes to be able to read.
Timothy hopes to eat candy.
Caiden hopes to drive a tractor.

This was also the week that we talked about the letter Uu so we put together a huge map of the United States of America and discussed different kinds of symbols, such as the U.S.A. flag, the Statue of Liberty, the Liberty Bell and Uncle Sam. We also talked about presidents and made presidential glyphs. And we even had time to play UNO!

This was a busy week just like every week in Kindergarten but we learned a lot and had fun doing all types of activities.



100s Day Activities in Kindergarten



Teddy Bear Activities

1st Grade

*Mrs. Barb Goering,
Teacher*



The first graders have been involved in some interesting projects and activities recently. In Math we've been learning geometry. We've been using real life materials, and categorizing them according to their respective solid shapes. We also had the opportunity to work with geoboards, create designs out of shapes, and do some patterning with M&M's.

As we continue to learn Reading skills and strategies, we're reading longer and more difficult material. It's so much fun to hear students reading longer passages fluently. In Science we recently completed a unit on light, heat and sound. We had the opportunity to learn about instruments from the fifth grade band & Mr. Connell, Mrs. Brubaker, as well as Sara Boman, our high school student aide. The culminating project of the unit was making our own musical instruments. We also have been learning about mo-

tion. We've had the chance to use a marble maze, quite a variety of magnetic games, as well as yo-yos.

Recently we were discussing ways to be friends in the first grade room. The students made the following suggestions:

I am sharing a doll. *Raechel*
 Play with each other. *Berlin*
 I share petting my cat. *Neviah*
 I invite my friend over to my house after I get home from school. *Luke*
 I like to share with my friend. *Katherine*
 I like to share my house. *Elizabeth*
 I play with my friend. *MaKayla*
 I like when I help others. I like to play with my friends. *Christian*
 I like to play sports with friends. *Junior*
 When somebody plays with me. *Olivia*
 I like to play. *Garrett*
 I can share with friends. *Cassandra*
 I share with my friends. *Kale*
 I can be a friend by taking turns when playing a game. *Roy*
 I share the Wii with my sister. *Dawson*
 I like to play with my friend. *Jake*
 I like to share. *Bethany*
 Invite friends over to your house. *Jessica*
 I like sharing. *Jordan*
 I like to play video games with my friends.
Daylon



2nd Grade

*Mrs. Ann Hiebert,
Teacher*



We welcomed in the new year by making a "Top Ten List of Best Things to Do in 2010":

Be kind to others
 Be careful and safe
 Be positive
 Wash your hands
 Share
 Be a good listener
 Don't call people names

Read, read, read
 Be a good sport
 Be a leader

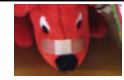


If we try hard to do these things each day, our classroom will be a great place to be!

All the snowy, foggy weather of January led us into a short study of snowflakes. We learned about Wilson "Snowflake" Bentley who used a camera with a microscope in the 1920's to photograph snowflakes. He lived on a farm near Jericho, Vermont where the annual snowfall is about 120 inches. He learned that most crystals had six branches (though a few had three). For each snowflake the six branches were alike. He said, "I found that snowflakes were masterpieces of design. No one design was ever repeated. When a snowflake melted, just that

much beauty was gone, without leaving any record behind." Even today, those who want to learn about snowflakes begin with Wilson Bentley's book *Snow Crystals*.

We also studied America's government and learned about the three branches that make it work. A mock election helped us choose a class symbol and to understand the voting process in a democracy. The two animals that made it to the ballot were the horse and the dolphin. The dolphin was the overwhelming winner! The 149th birthday of Kansas was celebrated by making a flipbook with the symbols of Kansas and writing tall tales with some Kansas symbols included.



Greta Wiebe, an education student from Tabor College, joined us for a week. We enjoyed getting to know her and appreciated the help she offered. Friendly letters were written to her after she left and the students were surprised with a visit from her at the Valentine's party. What a treat! The parents planned a great Valentine's party with shrinky dinks and whistling lips being the highlights along with Miss Greta's visit!!

Camouflage has been our theme in reading. We have learned about lots of cool animals and how they "hide" to stay safe. The word mimicry was added to our vocabulary to describe animals like walking-sticks and katydids that try to look like something else. Bag reports were completed with a partner

about one of the animals in our reading books. Facts were found and written on squares of paper and glued on the outside of a brown paper bag. Pictures of the animals were drawn and also glued on the bags. The bags were shared with the class.

Telling time to the minute on analog clocks has kept us busy in math. It can be tricky to tell exactly which little line the minute hand is pointing to. We are beginning to work with telling time with calendars.

We are looking forward to spring and being outside more. We have had recess outside on a few sunny, not windy days this winter. The sunshine felt good on our faces and gave us hope that spring will come!



3rd Grade

Mr. Dale Wiens,
Teacher



The third grade students have just memorized their multiplication facts and are learning how to apply multiplication to everyday situations. In social studies, we learned about the ways Martin Luther King helped make people's lives so much better. We even simulated a protest march with great enthusiasm. Also, we have been preparing for the state tests in reading and math by using the Study Island website.

The symbols and history of Kansas came to life through projects. Family and friends were invited to view the dioramas and displays showing what the students learned about Kansas. The students were asked to name a



place they would most like to visit someday in Kansas. Here's what they said.

Kendall: I would like to go to Marquette, Kansas because it has a lot of motorcycles. My "Grandpa Hammer" rides a motorcycle, and I like motorcycles also.

Savanna: The Oz Museum looks great because I really want to buy a toy from there and see the ruby slippers.

Megan: I would like to go see the world's largest ball of sisal twine in Cawker City. The sisal twine ball weighs 18,032. I would also like to meet Claire Windsor; she is a silent movie actress.

Nathan: I would like to go to Abilene, Kansas and watch the Bill Hickok Rodeo because I like rodeos where people get bucked off horses.

Nathaniel: I would like to go to Council Grove Lake so I could enjoy fishing and hunting around the area.



David: I want to go to the Topeka Combat Airplane Museum. I would like to see the airplanes, especially the Army airplanes.

Drew: I would like to go Pawnee Indian Museum. I would go to the Lodges and go to the village in Republic, Kansas. I would learn about their stories.

Christopher: I would like to go see Big Brutus in Southeast Kansas, and I will go in the tower. It is southwest of Pittsburgh, Kansas.

Audessi: I would like to go to the Indian Center Museum in Wichita because I love history about Indians.

The museum has artifacts and a gift shop featuring Native American jewelry, beadwork, books, pot-



tery, and music. It is in North Seneca. *Faith Bray:* I want to go to Wild West World near Wichita when it opens again. Also, I want to spend an afternoon at the Bradley Fair's outdoor shopping plaza to enjoy eating, shopping, and concerts during summer and fall.

Layci: I would like to see Carey Park in Hutchinson. I would play in the pool and go down the slides to have fun at the splash park.



Julianna: I would like to visit the Great Wolf Lodge in Kansas City to experience the

swimming pool, bedrooms, and dining room. A three or four night visit would be best.

Malachi: Someday I'd like to go to Pomona Lake near Ottawa. I would like to go hunting there.

Stephany: If I were to go someplace in Kansas, I would go to Baxter Springs to see the Heritage Center and look at the water from the bridge.

Justice: I want to see the Mid-America Air Museum in Liberal with more than 100 aircraft. I'd like to take a ride in one of the planes.



Edel: If I could go anywhere in Kan-

sas, I would visit the Great Plains Nature Center. I would learn about plants and animals. I think I would have a good time and it would be pretty.

Sam: I want to see Boot Hill in Dodge City. I would dress up like a cowboy and ride in a stagecoach. I would have a good time there.

Hailey: I want to visit the state capitol building in Topeka to learn the fascinating story of the majestic building.



4th Grade

Mr. Tom Krehbiel, Teacher



The fourth graders have been writing fables for Reading and English. These are some of the morals that concluded their fables.

Be nice to people



You should listen to your Mother and Father

Treat people the way you want to be treated

Be yourself, it does not matter what other people think

You should not lie or you could get in trouble



When you share you get more friends

It doesn't matter what you wear or look like, what really matters is what is on the inside

If you show off just for some attention, it's the wrong thing to do

Be nice or you might not have friends

If you already have a lot don't ask for more

Don't steal because you will be in trouble

Don't get caught up with the wrong group of people

When life gets tough never give up

Don't do dares, they can be dangerous

Don't hide in the crowd, be yourself

Treat others the way you want to be treated





5th Grade

Mrs. Abrahams,
Teacher

The fifth grade class spent the month of December learning about food chains, oceans and eco-systems in both Kansas and Alaska. When we returned from Christmas break we began planning for a trip to Alaska. Before leaving we posed for a group photo. As it was the trip was pretty uneventful. Upon arriving we met our guide, Laurie, who began the tour of the Sea Life Center, which is located in Seward, Alaska. As we toured the facility, we became acquainted with many different types of animals that are native to Alaska. We saw sea otters, sea lions, and diving ducks. The

octopus was shy and hid from us at first but eventually it came out and greeted us. In another part of the museum we were shown skulls of a wolf, sea lion and a brown bear. We also saw a baby otter that had been rescued because its mother had died. Our guide ended the tour by allowing us to ask questions. We found out that one of the sea lions was expecting and we were invited to come back this spring to see the new baby. We probably won't have enough funds to return in spring and so reluctantly we said good-bye and began our trip home. Some kids in the group thought snacks might be served on the return trip, but none were available.

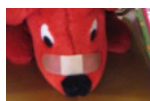


Upon returning home everyone agreed the trip had been a great learning experience. Back at school these comments were shared about the trip. "I liked it because I got to learn about new animals, look at skulls, and learn about the Alaskan food chain." "I thought it was interesting to learn about Alaska and compare the eco-system with Kansas."





This quarter, our featured staff member is Janice Voth. Janice has been a cook at Goessel Elementary for 13 years. She is married to Verney and has two sons. Jeremy is her oldest son and owns a construction company. Jeremy is married to Denise who works at Citizens State Bank in Hesston. Kendall is her youngest son



Staff Interview by

Malachi Boudreau, Student
Mrs. Jody Schmidt, Teacher



and is a freshman at K-State. Janice's hobbies include baking and sewing. Pizza and chocolate desserts are some of Janice's favorite foods. Her advice to the students at Goessel Elementary is to work hard, try your best, and don't give up. Janice also shared that we have a very good school system and should be thankful for what we have.

P.E. /Health Computer

Mr. Joe Biggs, Teacher



Cold temperatures have kept the PE classes inside but have not kept the kids from having a blast. Over the past few months the kids have participated in a lot of different activities such as juggling, jump rope, basketball, create-a-game, holiday games, and most recently speedball. Some of the highlights include the 5 on 5 Intramurals for the 5th grade with Rhett, Trevor, Brittany, Jayden, and Jennifer claiming the championship, 2nd graders participating in an actual basketball game, kindergarteners making their first baskets, just to name a few. If you would like to see some pictures of these events check out the website under Elementary PE. Some of the upcoming units include hula hoops, gymnastics, base-

ball/t-ball, softball, and of course the famous skating unit which starts April 5th. We're looking forward to a great spring.



Vocal Music

Mrs. Marcia Brubaker, Teacher



Groovin' With the Grimms was the All-School Muscial for Goessel Elementary School this February. Our fifth graders were awesome as narrators, dancers, and actors. K-5 students were the choir. Groovin' retells several of Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm's famous fairy tales through song. Each song also has an applicable life-lesson.

Songs, Stories, and Lessons

- *Be Careful What you Wish For (The Fisherman and His Wife) *Be Content*
- *Three Un-Wicked Witches (Hansel and Gretel, Rapunzel, Sleeping Beauty) *Things can be different than they appear!*
- *Mirror, Mirror (Snow White) *Look for inner beauty*
- *Rock 'n' Roll Takes Teamwork (The Bremontown Musicians) *With team work, you're unstoppable!*
- *Please, Wake Up Sleeping Beauty! (Sleeping Beauty) *Patience!*
- *I'm Doin' Somethin' Good (The Shoe maker and the Elves) *Be helpful*
- *Rapunzel Rap (Rapunzel) *Stand up for yourself—Treat others well*
- *A Dragon Can Be Royalty, Too *Every one is a prince or princess*
- *Give Your Brain a Workout Today (Hansel and Gretel) *Use your brain power*





Library

Mr. Russell Pauls, Librarian



Clifford's doghouse has been stolen!

Clues have been left behind, and it's up to the students at Goessel Elementary School to solve the mystery of the missing doghouse.

Once again, we are having a February reading incentive program for the month of February. Each class has set a weekly reading goal. Once a class reaches its goal, they receive a clue. There are three clues for the first three weeks of February. If a class meets its goal for all three weeks, then they are awarded a fourth bonus clue. To help the students with clues, there will also be some special activities the last week of February. On the morning of February 25, each class will turn in a guess as to the



identity of the thief. That evening at the conclusion of Family Reading Night, the identity of the thief will be revealed. We will also do a revealing the next morning for those students who don't attend Family Reading Night. Each class who guesses correctly will receive prizes.

As mentioned earlier, Family Reading Night is February 25th. That afternoon, we will also be having our second Accelerated Reader store of the year. Students who want to earn points for this store have until February 24 to take tests. All points earned after that can be spent at the A.R. store on the last day of school.

It's a busy and exciting time in the library. I hope you will all take part in the reading programs here at G.E.S.

(look for sad Clifford throughout this newspaper)

Counselor's Corner

Mrs. Janna Duerksen



As Mr. Fast, said on page 1, we are gearing up for the Kansas State assessments. We will use the computers for on-line testing as we did last year. These exams determine our school's annual yearly progress and are very important.

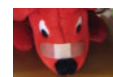
We are continuing our character education series with Shubert (the firefly puppet) and have had a lot of fun learning about social skills. This series also aligns well to parenting tips. For Dr. Becky Bailey's 10 "To Do's" for Discipline log on to www.consciousdiscipline.com.

A newly-improved resource just came across my desk this month. It is an on-line tutoring service provided by Kan-ed. Just log on to www.kan-edlivetutor.com and get help with your child's homework in math, science, social studies, and English from 8am-11pm seven days a week.

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

Title I

*Teacher,
Mrs. Mary Schmidt*



FAMILY READING

Something new is being added to Family Reading Night this year – we are starting with a Pizza Supper for the whole family! PTO will begin serving at 5:45 and finish at 6:30 so that everyone will be ready at 6:45 for the reading to begin. Please call the office by Monday, Feb. 22 to reserve the meals your family will eat. The adult meal is \$3.50 and children's meals will be \$2.00.

The theme this year is Mystery because the whole school has been looking for the thief who stole Clifford's dog house. Besides reading together as a family in the gym, everyone will listen to a detective story and have some fun with tongue twisters. Cup Stacking will also be an activity since good eye/hand coordination can be an indication of being a good reader. Kids, come teach your parents how to do this as well as challenge them to beat your time!

Bring pillows and blankets to get comfortable in the gym, and don't forget your books! A big bonus for all who attend – the dog house thief will be revealed!!

Goessel Elementary

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



We have SPIRIT!

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 22, 6:30 P.M.—PTO MEETING

FEBRUARY 23—LIFETOUCH INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP PICTURES

FEBRUARY 25, 6:00 P.M. SUPPER AND 6:45 PROGRAM—FAMILY READING NIGHT

MARCH 12, 12:30 P.M.—DISMISS FOR TEACHER WORK DAY

MARCH 15-19—SPRING VACATION, NO SCHOOL

MARCH 26--KINDERGARTEN SCREENING

MARCH 30—4TH & 5TH GRADE RED WHEEL FUND-RAISER BEGINS

APRIL 1—GOOD FRIDAY, NO SCHOOL



more pictures...

