



GES Newsletter

May 2010 News

Volume 12, No. 3

Principal's Corner

Mr. John Fast, Principal



Summer is just around the corner and with it are so many opportunities in our community to offer your children. Bible School is being offered by the local churches. The Goessel Recreation Commission offers swimming lessons and T-ball, and softball.

Of course, I always encourage trips to our local library. One of the best things you can do to help your child be successful in school next fall, is to encourage reading. Take time to read to your child and take time to listen to your child read to you. There are many adventures awaiting your child's imagination once you have made the trip to the library to pick up a good book. Our community library is well stocked and the only cost is the time it takes to make the trip and I guarantee it will be well invested!!!

Kindergarten

Mrs. Sheri Janzen, Teacher



The year has flown by for the Kindergarten class! In just a few days they will be leaving for the summer and then first grade! When asked what they had learned in Kindergarten, this is what they said-

Jolly Jevin enjoyed doing puzzles and likes getting seconds at lunch!

Elegant Elsie learned about different kinds of animals that lived in the ocean and is good at addition!

Grimming Gunnar liked playing with Frisbees in PE and is a great friend!

Cool Caiden liked learning about dinosaurs and helps his friends remember the rules.

Zooming Zach enjoyed bringing his bear to school for Bear Day and he knows how to rhyme and blend words.

Energetic Emily loved going to see The

Nutcracker Ballet and is a very careful counter.

Caring Cassoday liked going to Music everyday and is very good at memorizing all the songs for the programs.

Kind Kaleigh has learned a lot about planting a garden and she is starting to sound out words!

Daring Dylan liked going to computer and does an amazing job of coloring pictures.

Radiant Riley liked looking at books in the bath tub during center time and can write her numbers to 100!

Lovely Lyna liked playing number games and she is a great helper!

Amazing Annalise has enjoyed learning to read and she can count past 300!

Beautiful Brianna has enjoyed meeting all the Letter People and is good at skipping!

Smiling Samantha has learned how to tie her shoes and is great at remembering what to do everyday after school.

Joyful Jacob learned a lot about different holiday symbols and is great at drawing all kinds of things, including leprechauns.

Talented Timothy enjoyed learning about insects and knows all the letters of the alphabet.

Lively Logan S. learned how to take care of the Earth and does a great job at following directions.

Delightful Devin learned a lot about Earth Day and he is a great reader!

Radical Rhett learned how to write the alphabet and he is good at sorting money!

Leaping Logan W. enjoyed drawing dinosaurs in the Art Center and tells great stories.

Interesting Ivory liked hunting for the Gingerbread Man and knows where everything is in this school!

Super Skyler liked building with blocks in the Block Center and is an amazing artist!

Dandy David liked checking books out at the Library every week and knows how to take care of plants.

Beaming Braxtyn learned how to play soccer in PE and he is good at doing dot

-to-dots.

Sweet Sapphire enjoyed eating snack everyday and knows how to put puzzles together.

As you can see the Kindergartners keep busy with many activities and have learned many new skills to prepare them for the future. There is so much to learn in Kindergarten and it has been fun trying to do it all! First grade...here we come!



Tazier from Tabor College shares her reptile pets



1st Grade

*Mrs. Barb Goering,
Teacher*



Following our Reading unit which focused on homes, our first grade class went on a field trip to various museums to compare types of houses. We learned about various aspects of the houses we visited and home life, including: What is/was the heat source? What is/was the water source? How is/was laundry done? When was the house built? Out of what materials was it constructed? How many bedrooms and bathrooms are in the house?

Our first stop was to Janna Duerksen's home. We learned that the home was built in 1996. Here is what some students remembered about their house:

The Duerksen house has a basement and Dawson's room is upstairs. *Daylon*

They had 3 bathrooms and had 4 bedrooms. They had a downstairs and an upstairs. *Olivia*

The Duerksen house had four bedrooms. They like to eat outside. *Katherine*

The Duerksens have lived in their house for a long time. *Gage*

Next we went to the Mennonite Heritage and Agriculture Museum. We saw the immigrant house. It was constructed in 1874. Students remembered the following from that building:

The Immigrant house was nice with the pictures in it. *Junior*

It is long. Twenty three families lived in the immigrant house. *Luke*



The immigrant house is cool. I saw a stick used for washing clothes. *Christian*



It had a big room and 23 families living in it. *Garrett*

Twenty three families lived in it. *MaKayla*

At that museum we also saw the Schroeder Barn/House. It was constructed in 1902. The students wrote the following about it:

The barn house had one family in it and no bathrooms. It had a barn. *Kale*

The barn house had two rooms. *Raechel*



The barn house had hay inside. There was a place for cows and horses to sleep. *Cassie*

After lunch we went to Kauffman Museum. We saw the Graber/Albrecht log cabin. It was constructed in 1879. Here's what students said about it:

The house was made of real logs. The house was heated with a wood stove. They used oil lamps to light the house. *Roy*

The log house is made out of wood.

The kitchen had a knife. *Tyler*

We got to see a table. *Jordan*



In addition, we saw the Voth/Unruh/Fast house, which is the house Mr. John Fast's dad grew up in, so Mr. Fast gave the tour for that house. The students said the following about it:

It had been moved three times before. *Bethany*

It only has one toy. It was made of wood. Also a wall was mud. There were three bedrooms and no bathrooms. *Elizabeth*



It is blue. It had no bathroom. It had one family living in it at a time. It had 3 bedrooms. *Jessica*

I saw Mr. Fast's dad's favorite toy he liked to play with. *Berlin*

Last of all we went to Warkentin House. It was built in 1887. Here's what the students said:

The Warkentin

House is very nice.

It is very old too. It

has a lot of old rugs. It has some stairs. *Neviah*

The Warkentin home has some nice silverware and some nice plates and some nice cups. *Dawson*

The Warkentin Home had an elevator. The Warkentin chair was made out of horse hair. *Jacob*

Wilhelmina Warkentin liked pretty dresses. *Cassandra*





2nd Grade

Mrs. Ann Hiebert,
Teacher



It's hard to believe the end of the school year is near! Lots of learning and creating has happened from August to May!! We are finishing the year with a reading unit called *America's People*.

The students are learning that America is made up of many diverse people, some ordinary and some extraordinary and how they have helped shape America. We are also learning how to write personal letters. We have been collecting pennies all year for Pennies for Peace, an organization founded by Greg Sorenson that builds schools in remote areas in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The students wrote personal letters to send along with our donation. Many students thought it was awesome how he worked so hard to build schools for children far away.

The students also wrote letters to the third graders and asked some questions about what third grade is like. The second graders enjoyed reading the response letters from the third graders. In math we are ending the year with fractions and greater numbers. Science finds us learning about matter and energy. We are also learning to write the last few capital letters in cursive.



The second graders took some time to think about some "favorites" from the year:

- **Porclein* -Everything! Art because you get to draw and color pictures. P.E. because you can play games. Music because you get to sing songs and on Friday we get to choose a song we want. Recess because you get to play games and have fun.
- **Richard* -I like free drawing in art. I had fun playing dog at recess. I liked learning about shapes in math. Science was fun.
- **Anton* -I liked computer, recess, art, science, and p.e.
- **Jerah* -My favorites were computer, music, recess, math, social studies, science, reading, gardening, crafts, lunch, milk break, snacks, game time, and p.e.
- **Isaiah* -I liked Mrs. Schrag. I like math. I like p.e. I like to play. I like to eat.
- **Elizabeth* -My favorite things about second grade are math, English, science, spelling, and reading. My favorite other classes are p.e., music, art, and sometimes computer. I like to play on the merry-go-round. In p.e. my favorite game is Number Line Soccer. In math I like everything except money and telling time. The thing I do not like is social studies. When it is freetime, I like to draw. I like to do crafts in school.
- **Cody* -I like my classroom. It is fun. We play games. We also eat and work. My favorite subjects are math, music, p.e. and everything else! Bye!
- **Jakob* -I like math, recess, game time, computer, and p.e.
- **Luke Freeman* -I like math. I like coloring. I like to roller skate in p.e. I like soccer. I like basketball.
- **Bailey* -I like Mrs. Hiebert. I like lunch. I like recess. I like music. I like p.e.
- **Brooke* -I. Doing music 2. Art 3. Reading books 4. P E. 5. Mrs. Hiebert
- **Vincent* -I love roller skating It has fun, music, dashing and is exciting! I really like roller skating. It is very fun. I like p.e.
- **Dylan* -I like spelling, drawing, movies, recess, gardening, computer, crafts, math, science, and music.

**Alexandria* - Things I liked in second grade: math, art, music, character ed., p.e. recess, science, gardening, reading, and writing.

**Zackary* -I liked friends, playing, art papers, painting, candy, reading chapter books, Sorry, magazines, free drawing, computer, library, and math.

**Tristin* -I like art and recess.

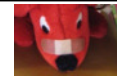
**Brody* -I liked recess, science, game time, and p.e.

**Thelma* -My favorite things are math, painting, recess, playing, coloring, movies, books, and friends.

**Alyssa* -Recess, math, and handwriting were my favorite things.

It has been a great year! I have seen gifts and talents in each student. I wish each student the best as they move on to third grade. I also hope each student and family has a fantastic summer!





3rd Grade

Mr. Dale Wiens,
Teacher



FAMOUS PEOPLE DAY

The third grade students recently finished a unit on famous people. After selecting and reading a biography book each student wrote a report about what they learned. This information was then expressed through reports, dioramas, timelines, colorful posters, computer slideshows, and acrostics. To conclude the unit, the students dressed up as their historical figure and made a display for the students in the school to enjoy to see on April 29. Many parents and grandparents also viewed the exhibits in the afternoon.

The students told me that they really enjoyed the unit. As a teacher, I feel that the students learned so much more from actually portraying historical characters instead of just reading about them. I was very pleased with the results of their efforts and with the enthusiasm they showed throughout the project. This is what the students had to say about their famous people.

Drew: Jesse Owens is famous for getting four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany. He showed great perseverance in track.



Faith: Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. Amelia had great courage to fly alone.

Nathan: George Washington was our first president of the USA. I like him because he was courageous during the Revolutionary War to help our country.



Layci: Helen Keller is famous for overcoming her handicap of blindness and being deaf. Helen showed great perseverance by learning the manual alphabet in her hand.



Megan: Amelia Earhart is famous for trying to fly around the world, but her plane crashed in the Pacific Ocean. I like her because she had great courage.

Julianna: Anne Frank is famous for writing a diary about her life as a child when she hid during WWII. I think Anne was courageous because she had to cooperate in the secret annex in order to hide from Hitler's army.



Hailey: Sacagawea is famous for helping Lewis and Clark get through the Louisiana Territory. I like her because she is kind and friendly.

Stephany: Rosa Parks did not get off the bus. She "sat down" for her rights and was arrested because the law said black people had to give up their seats. She was courageous because she fought against segregation.

Savanna: Anne Frank is famous for writing about her life as she hid from the Nazis. She showed kindness because she did not fight with those around her.



Sam: Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected as the 34th president of the USA. His leadership helped us win WWII.

Malachi: Davy Crockett was a good woodsman. He showed leadership by defending the Alamo, but unfortunately he died there.

Audessi: Florence Nightingale is famous because she helped get nursing started. I like her because she had courage to help the soldiers in the Crimean War.

Kendall: Benjamin helped write the Declaration of Independence, which gave the colonies freedom from England. I like

Franklin because he invented bifocals, the Franklin stove, and did experiments with electricity. He had courage to fight for freedom.



Edel: Jane Goodall is famous for her years of studies and discoveries with chimpanzees. Jane is my hero because she showed perseverance when the chimps would not come to her, but she still kept going.

Nathaniel: Jackie Robinson was famous because he was the first black player in Major League Baseball. I like him because he had the courage keep playing even though he was threatened.

David: Abraham Lincoln was elected as our 16th president of the USA. I like him because he helped stop slavery in our country.



Justice: Charles Lindbergh is famous because he was the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. He went from New York to Paris, France. He was courageous because he sometimes had to jump out of airplanes.



Christopher: Davy Crockett was a famous mountain man and was elected to the US Congress. I like him because he was courageous like I am, and he defended the Alamo.



4th Grade

Mr. Tom Krehbiel, Teacher



The Fourth graders would like to share with you some of the things they have learned in the past year. Some of the thoughts are school related and some are not. Have fun.

That Best Friends don't always stay Best Friends forever.

My cousin's best friend is cake.

I learned that I like Study Island.

Never make fun of Justin Bieber in front of Leah or you'll lose a finger.

Bal-A-Vis-X is really hard, but a lot of fun! 2 balls, 3 balls, 4 balls, there's so much to do.

Yo-yo seemed so easy until I actually tired it.

Planting our beanstalk, Beany, he's growing up so fast.

I learned that KCA (Kansas State Tests) are easy if you try.

I thought Justin Bieber was a 2 year old girl when I first heard him.

Don't try and sneak up on a snake, to them you are a glowing sign.

I learned that the best way to go to sleep is with your dog.

That my dad is awesome!!!!

I learned that if you try you'll do better.

I learned that volcanoes can make lightning.

I learned that if you want a big plant, you should read to it.

If I say I can do it, I can do it.

Math can help you in life.

I learned how to do Bal-A-Vis-X. I am very good at the three ball with a partner.

I learned how long bacteria can live.

I've gotten really far since 1st grade to the end of 4th grade.

We did owl pellets at the beginning of the year and Kolton found a beak.

I like to doodle.

It is okay to be yourself.

Always try your best.

I learned that my phone is very important.

I learned how to Ripstick.

Justin Bieber looks cute.

Robert E. Lee is very cool.

The monkey on the tree in fourth grade squeaks.

Making whites, colors, and darks into piles for the laundry.

What fun it is to help around the house.

Running two miles is not that hard.

I really love running or walking with my mom.

That drawing is really my thing.

How to plant and take care of my bean plant.

What fun it was to learn about Sacajawea in Social Studies.

How to do eye to hand coordination with Bal-A-Vis-X.

That I could read 450 pages in a month for Reading Records.

That the sky is pink in the evenings if you go outside on a walk. That my mom is really cool.





5th Grade

Mrs. Abrahams,
Teacher

Fifth graders are beginning to look forward to leaving this building and moving on up "to the west side". Most are filled with mixed emotions as they begin to think about what they are leaving behind and what they are anticipating.

I'm going to miss recess and all the teachers and kids I grew up with. I'm looking forward to meeting new teachers and playing sports. *Olivia*

I will miss the rest of the school looking up to us. I am looking forward to lockers and sports. *Lydia*

I'm going to miss Mrs. Abrahams and recess. But I am looking forward to having our own lockers and meeting new teachers. *Kenny*

One thing I'm going to miss is recess and all the teachers who prepared me for Jr. High. Things I'm looking forward to include playing basketball and football. *Rhett*



I'm going to miss robotics, recess, and being the one who little kids look up to. I like the idea of having a locker to keep my stuff in. *Zachary*

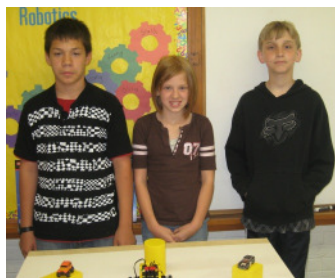
I will miss Mrs. Abrahams, recess, Mr. Fast and Denise. Meeting new teachers and having lockers will be interesting. *Trevor*

Something I'll miss about fifth grade is having the smaller kids seeing us as their role models. Also, I will miss recess. I look forward to dances and having a locker. I will miss Mrs. Abrahams too; she always makes me feel special. *Jennifer*

I will miss having one teacher. I am interested in participating in sports. *Brittany*

What I'm going to miss about this school is being the oldest. I think dances will be fun and having our own lockers will be different and new. *Miguel*

I'm going to miss recess and robotics. The saddest thing is I won't have Mrs. Abrahams as a teacher; instead I'll have to learn to know a lot of new teachers. I'm waiting to have my own locker. *Autumn*



Things I will miss are P.E., recess and the teachers. I like the idea of meeting new teachers, having lockers and having new experiences. *Tiana*

I'm going to miss my teacher Mrs. Abrahams because she gave us chocolate and cake to for different reading and math lessons. I am looking forward to meeting new friends and having a locker. *Shelbi*

I am going to miss all of the great teachers that I have had in the past six years. I am looking forward to meeting new teachers and having new classes. *Kaytlin*

I will miss my favorite teachers like Mrs. Schmidt and Mrs. Abrahams. I will also miss recess. I think having lockers will be fun. *Jayden*

I'm going to miss a lot of things like teachers and extra recess on Fridays. I look forward to new teachers, like Mr. Lindeman. *Joshua*





Staff Interview by

Richard Chumbley, Student
Mrs. Jody Schmidt, Teacher



This quarter, our featured staff member is Mr. Mike Connell. He has been our band director for the past three years. Mr. Connell is married to Cheryl. Mr. Connell and Cheryl have two grown children, Dena and Shannon, and three grandchildren. They also have a dog and a cat. Directing his

church choir and playing golf are some of his hobbies. He enjoys eating pizza and Chinese food. His advice to the students in Goessel Elementary is to have a dream and work hard to follow it. Mr. Connell has had fun teaching here and hopes everyone keeps making great music.

P.E. /Health Computer

Mr. Joe Biggs, Teacher



Time has flown by in the PE world. The students have had a blast this year enjoying all the different activities. Some of the highlights of the year I would say would have been speedball, dodgeball, basketball, skating and going on currently teeball/whiffleball. The kids are really enjoying learning how to swing a bat and figuring out how to play the game itself. It gives the kids a chance to get outside when the sun is shining. We also just got done with our Fitness Challenge in grades 3-5. The kids did absolutely

amazing and there were even some records broke. Check out the PE webpage to see who shattered the old Push-Up, Sit-Up, and Mile records. I want to thank the kids for doing a great job this year and the parents for all the support. Have a great summer and we will see you back in August.



Vocal Music

Mrs. Marcia Brubaker, Teacher



It's springtime in the Music Room, and our music learning is in full bloom!

Goessel students are learning songs from many countries around the world, so we've learned new rhythms and new languages to sing. Kindergarteners are singing and playing some traditional game songs like *London Bridge*, *The Farmer in the Dell*, and *The Muffin Man*. First graders are reading rhythms with quarter notes and quarter rests and eighth notes. Second graders are adding half notes. Third graders have conducted the singers. Fourth and fifth graders are learning about musicals by singing songs from and watching *Annie* and *The Music Man*. Fourth graders are also learning songs on their recorders. Fifth graders will sing for their Generation Bridge friends at Bethesda on May 12.

On April 15 GES students were treated to a special presentation by the group Chatham Baroque and their pirate host. We traveled to cities in Europe and learned about instruments and music from 350 years ago.



It's springtime in the Music Room and it's exciting to see our young musicians budding out!



Counselor's Corner

Mrs. Janna Duerksen



Summer is just around the corner!! How does parenting change over the summer and what will you allow your children to do with free time?? Here are two thoughts:

If you hope to strengthen adult-child relationships, reduce summertime squabbles, help children deal with change and transitions, and help children learn new skills, consider this: Cheri Ochs Wheeler, LSCSW, will lead a Conscious Discipline class on Saturday, May 22 in the Marion Sports Complex Lobby from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Make-it-and-Take-it activities, ideas for summer fun, and free swim passes to the first 20 households or families who register! For more information call 620-947-3184.

I received notice about a major study that came out this spring regarding the negative impact of video games on youth. The findings? Violent video games make youth more likely to engage in personal aggression, are primarily self-focused, games and the skills they build have virtually no transferability to real life, they steal time and mental energy from tasks that could be truly productive and/or skill building, create a false sense of competency, and they can become highly addictive. What can parents do? Don't accept the "everybody does it" excuse, set limits, use the "real life" rule (ask yourself, would you encourage this behavior in real life?), and if your children are still young, delay getting games as long as possible (If you want to, get them a Wii. Do the educational games. But lay off all the Gameboys, X-boxes, Playstations, Internet-based games — you and they will be better off.)

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

Library

Mr. Russell Pauls, Librarian



Another exciting year is coming to an end in the elementary library. We have had a great year of learning, reading and fun! We've done an Accelerated Reader auction along with three A.R. stores as well as helped Clifford find his doghouse by reading during the month of February. We also enjoyed a mystery filled family reading night. Now it's time to look ahead to summer.

All library materials will need to be returned to the library on Tuesday, May 11. This should give me time to inventory all materials as well as chase down any lost items. On Thursday, May 13, I hope to have notices to send home with replacement costs for materials that haven't been returned. While receiving money to replace lost books is nice, we would prefer to have the books back instead.

I would also like to encourage all of our students to get involved in summer reading programs at the area public libraries. It is so important for our students to keep reading in the summer. A lot of great books are sitting on the shelves of our public libraries just waiting for students to enjoy them.

It has been another outstanding year in the library, and I'm already looking forward to starting my eleventh year at GES!!



Title I

Teacher,
Mrs. Mary Schmidt



Summer Ideas For Families

Our school year is suddenly moving very fast towards summer! It's been a treat to work with my students this year. Some have made so much progress that I've dismissed them due to their improvement. Parents, do you know how to help your children stay on-target for next school year? Here are just a few simple ideas:

1. Every child should have books available for reading. Set aside time for reading each day and see how many books can be read over the summer. Our local library always has a summer program, and it's cool inside!
2. Read to your children and see how much fun it can be! Also, read some books for your own pleasure - this is setting a great example.
3. Do you still have flash cards of math facts at your house? Take them out and see what your child remembers. Math facts always seem to disappear in summer! Addition, subtraction, multiplication — anything will be a big help.
4. Another idea is to do some cooking with your children. Cooking is reading and math all put together, and then you can eat the results. Most children love to help when they know there's a reward!

Hopefully, these ideas will help you think of even more ways you can help your children remain ready for another school year. Thank you for your efforts throughout the year!

Goessel Elementary

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



We have SPIRIT!

more pictures...

COMING EVENTS

MAY 13— 2ND GRADE FIELD TRIP

MAY 14— 5TH GRADE FIELD TRIP

MAY 17— PIZZA PARTY IN RESOURCE ROOM

**MAY 18— REWARDS PROGRAM, 5TH PROMOTION,
PLAY DAY, AND LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**

AUGUST 11— ENROLLMENT 6-9 P.M.

AUGUST 12— ENROLLMENT 8-12 A.M.

AUGUST 26— SCHOOL BEGINS

AUGUST 30— GRADE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE 7 P.M.

Have a wonderful summer!

