



GES Newsletter

February 2013 Winter News

Volume 14, No. 2

Principal's Corner

Mr. John Fast, Principal



PROPOSED STORM SHELTER

Under the proposed facility improvements, the Grade School would receive a storm shelter capable of sheltering 190 students and staff from an F 5 tornado. This shelter would be centrally located behind the kitchen area and adjacent to the gym. This space can double as well for early childhood education needs and an after school room. Sheltering at the High School is more than adequate with concrete and steel reinforcing in the structure. The designated shelter at the HS is located in the basement locker rooms, art room and hallway. The present state bond equalization bill provides Goessel with 40% of the money to complete the project. Therefore, 40% of the total cost is picked up by the state and not by local patrons. It is quite likely this state aide will be revoked next year. Each year we hear of schools and communities getting hit with severe weather and tornadoes. Safety of our children of the utmost concern to the BOE and administration. Besides the storm shelter, the project would finish the remodeling of the restrooms (girls restroom was completed a couple of years ago) and it would add an air lock vestibule at the east entrance at the GES. **We will have a public meeting and tour at the HS. Date will be announced.** The public is encouraged to attend. You will have an opportunity to vote on this proposed project on April 2.

Kindergarten

Mrs. Sheri Janzen, Teacher



In preparation for the K-5 Music program Walk with Me, the Kindergartners learned and practiced many skills that will help them as they explore

this world. They started by saying their personal information such as address and phone number to Mrs. Janzen. We also talked about where we can walk in the world by reading books and putting together puzzles of Kansas, the United States, and the world. We colored the USA flag and played with puppets from other countries. During this time we also created collections to celebrate the 100th day of school, played games with friends in our world, and used numbers and letters to tell about our world. Below are some of the things we have learned during the first semester on our walk through Kindergarten.



Jack has learned how to count by 10's and what makes a volcano.

Braxton has learned how to tie his shoes and how to help his friends at recess.

Colby has learned how to count in different ways and how to be a good friend.

Sam has learned the letters and their sounds and how to count.

Adriana has learned how to hold her scissors and pencil and how to cut snowflakes.



Tristan learned about what vegetables are healthy for us and also how to make the Xx sound.

Skyler has learned to say the ABC's and write her name.

Jace has learned how to use the calendar and write the date.

Aiden has learned about different holidays throughout the year and how to find his way around the school.

Koy has learned how to count to 100 by 2's and about different kinds of animals.

Viola has learned how to use glue and how to mix colors to make new colors.

Brooklyn has learned how to make patterns and how to make a color wheel.



Aimee has learned several different kinds of shapes and how to draw them and about the symbols of Kansas.

Royser has learned the alphabet and how to read words.

Levi has learned to always do his best work and he has learned to recognize numbers to 100.

Rebecca has learned about the letter people and their songs and how to sound out words.

Abbigail learned about dinosaurs and how to write letters.

Logan learned about butterflies and insects and who works here at the school.



Practicing for fire drill.





1st Grade

Mrs. Barb Goering,
Teacher



The first graders are delightful youngsters with great ideas and imagination. They recently wrote make-believe stories. I was impressed by the ideas they generated, their perseverance, and their art work. They've also been focusing on characterization in the stories they've been reading or hearing me read. One assignment they recently completed had the students finding similarities between themselves and characters in stories, as well as comparing characters in different stories. Below you'll find their comparisons.

Summer says, "I am like Frog (in *The Kite* by Lobel) because I couldn't fly my kite when I was three."



Wade compares characters in *The Little Engine That Could* by

Piper and *Itsy Bitsy Spider*

by Trapani. "The Little Engine is like the Spider because they never give up."

Ricardo also refers to *The Kite* by Lobel when he says, "I am like Frog because we never give up."

Riley refers to *The Kite* by Lobel as well. He says, "I am like Frog because I keep trying."

"I am more like Junie (in *Junie B. Jones is a Party Animal* by Park) because I am goofy," says Noah.

Miranda states, "I am like Junie (in *Junie B. Jones is a Party Animal* by Park) because I'm kind of crazy like her and sometimes I say stuff wrong."



Chevy thinks he's like "Chibi and I hunt for food," from the book *Crow Boy* by Yashima.

Rachel says, "I am like the Spider (in *Itsy Bitsy Spider* by Trapani) because when I was trying to read I kept trying."

"I am like Junie (in *Junie B. Jones is a Party Animal* by Park) because I am funny and she is funny too," says Alece.

Brandon states, "Little Engine (from *The Little Engine That Could* by Piper) and I are alike. We try hard and never give up."

Alyson says, "I'm like Frog (in *The Kite* by Lobel) because we both keep on trying."

"I am like Emily (in *Clifford, We Love You* by Bridwell) because I take care of my pet," says Javin.

Eli says, "I think I'm like Chibi (in *Crow Boy* by Yashima) because I like to collect bugs."

Klay states, "I am like Frog (in *The Kite* by Lobel) because I never give up."

"I'm like Emily (in *Clifford, We Love You* by Bridwell) because I try to make people feel better," says Jaicee.

Jake says, "I am like Frog (in *The Kite* by Lobel) because I never give up."

Cambry also refers to the Lobel story when saying, "I am like Frog because I keep trying!"

Layne refers to *The Kite* also when he says, "I am like Frog because I never give up."

"I'm like the Engine (in *The Little Engine That Could* by Piper) because I cannot do the same stuff too," says Nick.

Liberty thinks she's like Clifford in *Clifford, We Love You* by Bridwell. She says, "Clifford plays all the time and I play all the time."



2nd Grade

Mrs. Ann Hiebert, Teacher

The second graders are busy getting ready for third grade. The school year is almost 3/4 over! The students are strengthening their reading skills by summarizing and comparing and contrasting stories, as well as working on vocabulary and fluency. Ten new spelling words are a challenge each week. Counting money and telling time have filled their thinking during math. Cursive



handwriting has been exciting and difficult at the same time. Social studies produced a flip book about Kansas symbols and ideas about how to make the world a better place in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Weather and space are the topics in science now. English is a mix of grammar and writing skills. The students were creative in writing and illustrating a poem about his or her favorite color. Enjoy their work!

Blue!!

I like blue because it's the color of the skies and oceans and pillows and blankets and cars and houses.

My favorite thing that is blue is a plane.

Travis

Pink

Pink is a flamingo, rose, shoes, shirts, hats, bows, coats, gloves, socks, pants, a rainbow, flowers, secrets, paper, hearts, books, cardboard, markers, and stars.

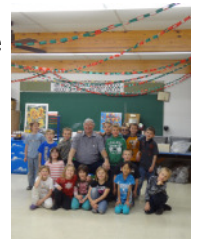
Madison

Purple

Purple is the color of grapes, K-State, and lots of other things. I like purple.

Justin I like all shades of blue because I like to see a blue sky. I like blue shoes and blue sweatshirts.

Blue makes me feel happy! Jacob





Pink

Pink is the color of a rose. Pink is a new baby, but everyone knows that pink is the best color for a rose. Mallory



makes me feel good. Caleb
Teal is a color that you feel and you eat in your meal. Teal is a color. Teal is a shirt. Teal is a sunset. Patrick



as a frog, green as a dish and green is the vines. Green is my friend like you and green is like cloth. Green is almost the color of a house. Green is a good color. Jake

Red

Red is bright. Red is dark. Red is anger. Red is a heart. Apples, Mars, and fire are red too. Some stars are red. My shirt can be red. Nathan



Purple

Purple is a color on your shirt and it is the color of forget-me-nots and shoes. It is a color of a flower pot and a water well and some paper, a laundry basket, and a toothbrush. A trash can, hats and gloves and mittens, coats, cars, books, posters, and letters have the color purple. Recycle boxes, collars for animals, and chairs can be purple too. Jasmine

Red

Red is for roses. Red is dark. Red is a color for a heart. Red is the color of fire and red is a color of a planet. Some shoes are red. Red is for hats. Red is for cherries. Red is for strawberries. Red is for strawberry cake. Emma

Purple is soft. Purple is hard. Purple is my kind of me. Purple is my man. Purple is my friend. Purple is my family. Purple is my brother. Sam

Pink
I'm thinking pink! It's very tink, like a pink flamingo is very pink. It's like pink rosebuds blooming in the spring! Pink is link and dink and spink, clink and pink! And at the end, the pink will end! I'm in a pink and dink mood! Ashley

I love purple! It's the color of grapes and K-State. A car can be purple. Purple

I'm thinking pink as Mrs. Hiebert, Skyler, Wade, Bane, Mom, and Brent are in my mind. Clothes, hair bows, flamingos and hair clips are pink. Pink makes me feel perfect. Sarah
What is green? The evening sky and the leaves on trees.



I like blue because it's the color of the sky and the ocean and clothes. It's the color of swimming pools. Grant

Pink

Pink is rough and it's also tough. If you're not rough, you can't be tough. Pink is for cowboys to wear to a rodeo, if they're tough enough. Kacen

What is green? Plants on the ground, green

3rd Grade



It is hard to believe we are almost in our final quarter of school! Third grade has grown and changed since the fall. After Christmas, we welcomed back Rylee Spears. The students were excited to see and hear from her. She has adjusted well, and everyone is glad to have her back at Goessel.

The third grade class has been busy, and every day brings new ideas and learning. Math consisted of multiplication mastery, and read-



ing included entertaining stories about animals and famous people. The real highlight from this past month came in social studies. We helped Kansas celebrate its 152nd birthday by researching different peo-



ple, attractions, and symbols of the state. Students worked in groups of two or three to prepare a display board. Once the boards were assembled, we designated a day that students could dress up and bring any foods that correlated with Kansas. Students showed off their hard work to Kindergarten, First, and Second graders. It was a successful day! I asked a few of my students to tell me something they learned or their favorite part of our

Kansas activities. Kaleigh – I learned that “Ad Astra per Aspera” means “To the stars through difficulties.”



Emily – I did not know that the Sunflower had been the state flower for over 100 years.

Timothy – My favorite part of Kansas day was bringing Kansas items and setting up our table.

Logan W. – I learned that the barred tiger salamander was the Kansas amphibian.

Riley – I learned that Indians used to hunt the buffalo for its skin and bones.

Skyler – My favorite part of our Kansas project was getting the information and drawing the pictures.



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. 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.

David: I want to go see the Sedgwick County Zoo so I can see my favorite animal, the tiger.



Dustyn: I would like to see the Harley Davidson motorcycles in Topeka. Someday I want to

buy a Fat Boy cycle there.

JJ: The Mid America Air Museum in Liberal displays 105 aircraft. A favorite for many visitors is the B-24 Liberator used in WWII.



Conner: Cowtown in Wichita has gunfights, wagon rides, and authentic cooking displays for visitors to enjoy. I've been there once and want to go back.

Dylan: I would like to go swim at the Salina Water Park so I can relax in the great, big lazy river. The Flusher is a fast slide that feels like riding a toilet.



Alyssa: The Underground Salt Museum in Hutchinson was formed 275 million years ago. I want to see the salt rocks there on the tour.

Samantha: Castle Rock is the place for me. I like to climb and jump off the rocks. Also, Flint Oak is a good hunting lodge, and I like to play volleyball there.

Logan S: I would like to see the Buffalo Bill Monument in Wichita. He was famous for trapping, trading, and leading the Buffalo Bill Wild West show.

Caiden: The Kansas Sports Hall of Fame is located in Wichita. The college football displays of the Kansas Wildcats would excite me the most.

Zach D.: I would like to see the Hutchinson CosmoSphere. The display of the Astronauts on the moon, the rover, and the spaceships teach us about space travel.

Gunnar: I would like to go to the Combat Air Museum in Topeka. The CH-53A sea stallion helicopter is a favorite of mine.

Elsie: Wilson Lake has a wildlife area for camping, fishing, and boating. I would look for animals and have wonderful time in nature.

Cassoday: The Natural History Museum in Lawrence has fossils of dinosaurs, animals from North America, and a new exhibit on bugs to enjoy.

Katie: I want to visit the Wichita Art Museum. The portraits of people interest me the most.

Jacob S.: I would like to visit the Kansas Speedway near Kansas City. Someday, I want to test drive a new car on the track and do the ropes challenge course before the race.



The fourth graders would like to share with you some of the things in life that are important to them.

My house is important because it protects me from bad weather and I have somewhere to lay my head.

Legos Star Wars is awesome like my mom.



Friends are great so I have someone to play with.

Family members of mine are important to me because they help me get started on the right way in life.

The thing I live for is to make people laugh.

I love hunting with my dad and my family because I like spending time with my family.



4th Grade

Mr. Tom Krehbiel, Teacher



To have a home is very important to me.

Mudding is fun because you get stuck sometimes.

I like my cartridge player. I listen to books on it.



My metal detector is important to me.

My fantastic family is important to me because they take care of me.



Inside is not the best but outside is the best.

Xbox 360 is important to me because it has a game library.

It is fun to climb the tree and sit and watch.

The cheese was nice and chewy on the pizza as it blends in my mouth.



Cats, I like them but my dad doesn't.

I like my dog because he plays with me.

Mom and Dad give me all the necessities I need and most of them I want, now that is important to me!



School is awesome almost every day, being with good friends and classes to be in.

February is important, because I have a birthday in February and I get toys with missiles.

My family is the most important thing in my life.



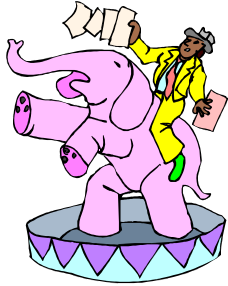


Title I

Mrs. Mary Schmidt,
Teacher



Family Reading Night Is Coming!



The Circus is coming! The Circus is coming! You guessed it – the theme for this year’s Family Reading Night is The Circus. It will take place on Tuesday, March 12 and will begin at 6:45 pm. (There will NOT be a meal this year.) Come prepared to have a good time reading as a family (pick your favorite spot in the gym), hear a story read about a cat who thinks he’s a Chihuahua in a circus, and last but not least, Mr. Pauls will be using his secret talent of making balloon animals. Our PTO will be helping with the popcorn snack too! There’s also a chance that a clown will show up to help with the story – come and find out! See you on March 12!



5th Grade

Mrs. Abrahams, Teacher
5th Grade

Fifth graders did some activities during the months of December and January that they would like to tell you about.

One of the activities we did at Generation Bridge during the month of December was to make peppernuts. Mrs. Abrahams and Gayle made the dough and then the residents and us rolled and cut it into small circles. They were baked in the kitchen as we kept rolling and cutting. The next Wednesday we packaged them and



delivered the packages to other residents in the home, to let them know we were thinking of them throughout the holidays. Finally, we got to sit down as a whole

group and enjoy peppernuts and hot chocolate. *Vincent, Luke, Devin, Jacob, Zach, Katelyn*

To kick off a unit on fractions we did an activity called Fraction Fondue. We were divided into groups of four. Each group got an apple, banana, graham cracker, pear and two marshmallows. After weighing them we had to divide each item into equal parts so we all got the same amounts. Each item needed to be divided in a different way. By doing this we learned which fractions are equal, and eventually learned how to add and subtract fractions with different denominators. Finally, we got to eat the fruit with some yummy chocolate fondue that Mrs. Abrahams had made. All in all, it was a fun math lesson to kick off our super long fraction unit. *Brooke, Richard*



In Science we studied flight. First, we made different types of paper airplanes and tested them to see which design would fly the longest distance. Next, we made strawkets. We made several different types so we could test the

amount of thrust. Finally, we made paper rockets. We had a great time making these but it took us quite awhile. We went to the gym to test our rockets. Rod, Mrs. Abrahams’ husband, was there with a rocket launcher. The launcher was attached to a compressor. Some of our rockets sailed clear across the gym, some almost made a basket, and several others exploded. We had a fun time with this unit. *Elizabeth, Alexandria, Jerah, Dylan*



Staff Interview by

Mrs. Jody Schmidt, Teacher
Interviewed by Zach Nolte



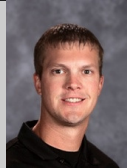
Featured staff member: Garrett Hiebert

Mr. Hiebert is a paraeducator in the Special Education Department at Goessel Elementary. He has been a paraeducator for three months. Mr. Hiebert also coaches High School football, Jr. High Boys basketball, and Jr. High/High School track. Brittney Hiebert, his wife of 7 months, teaches at the Jr. High. Mrs. Ann Hiebert, 2nd Grade Teacher, is Mr. Hiebert's mom. Reading and watching and playing sports are some of Mr. Hiebert's hobbies. Tacos are his favorite food. Mr. Hiebert's advice for Goessel Elementary students is to work hard, listen to your teachers, and have fun!



P.E. /Health Computer

Mr. Joe Biggs, Teacher



Over the past few months the kids have participated in a lot of different activities such as juggling, jump rope, basketball, create-a-game, and many different holiday games. Some of the highlights include the older kids creating their own games such as Pull The Teeth, Squidwars, and Cone Collections, the younger kids learning how to juggle scarves, Kindergarteners making their first baskets, and the older kids playing some actual basketball games. 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, baseball/t-ball, softball, frisbee, and of course the famous skating unit which starts April 8th. We're looking forward to having a great end of the year!



Vocal Music

Mrs. Marcia Brubaker,
Teacher



Walk With Me was the theme for the February 14 program at GES. The program shared several main messages:

1. *Walking in the Light*—We are with and can enjoy others on the journey of life.
2. *The Colors of My Dreams*—Everyone needs to be allowed to dream. We've also talked about how sharing our dreams can be a difficult thing because our personal dreams can be very fragile and easily shattered.
3. *Hope's the Thing*—We all have hopes and wishes for our own lives or for our world.
4. *Everyone Needs a Hero*—We each need a hero as a role model. Heroes can be found in famous or ordinary people. Even children can be heroes to others.
5. *Beautiful World*—We have a beautiful world that we live in with natural as well as man-made wonders to enjoy.

The students really enjoyed working on the songs and talking about these ideas. A lot of the songs include the idea of rainbows and bluebirds, so those were fun ideas to listen for. The students at GES are so glad they could share this program with you!!





Library

Mr. Russell Pauls
Librarian



KD monsters



Where did February go? It's almost March, and time is flying in the library. We must be having fun! We are certainly busy. All grades have been working hard on a variety of projects since we got back from Christmas Break.

Kindergarten: Alliteration (Tongue Twisters)

1st Grade: Setting and books by Kevin Henkes

2nd Grade: Poetry! Students each wrote and illustrated their own poems.

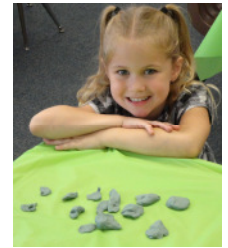
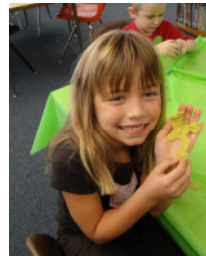
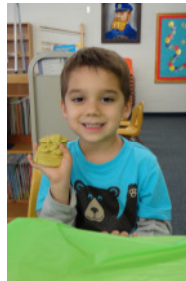
3rd Grade: Finding books using the computer **BY THEMSELVES!**

4th Grade: Similes, metaphors, and using the non-fiction section

5th Grade: Book portfolios

Spring is an exciting time in the library. Family Reading Night is coming up on March 12 (Come see one of Mr. Pauls' hidden talents!). The 5th grade will have their annual Accelerated Reader Auction in April, and the last Accelerated Reader store of the year will be on the last day of school in May.

Plenty of excitement in the library to come!



Counselor's Corner

Mrs. Janna Duerksen



Another school year is more than half over and we are gearing up for the Kansas State Assessments just around the corner. We will test grades 3, 4, & 5 in reading and math and grade 4 in science. The tests will occur over various days in March and April. Please see that your son or daughter gets good rest the night before an assessment. And, as always, please help us to motivate your kids to do the best they can on these tests.

On another note, it can be hard to admit that your child is bullying others. Bullies are commonly impulsive, lack

empathy and have a strong desire to get or achieve something they feel they need. But when you recognize this type of behavior in your child, it's important to take action right away. Role-playing, or practicing, is an excellent way to teach positive social skills. Studies show that a child's bullying will continue unless parents or other adults intervene. For more information on this topic and **MANY** additional parenting tips, go to www.parenting.org.

If you have any questions or concerns that I could help you with please don't hesitate to call, e-mail, or visit me at school.



Goessel Elementary

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



We have SPIRIT!

**more pictures
more pictures...**



COMING EVENTS

MARCH 8—END OF 3RD 9 WEEKS

MARCH 12—FAMILY READING NIGHT

MARCH 15—NO SCHOOL, TEACHER INSERVICE

MARCH 18-22—SPRING BREAK

MARCH 26—4TH AND 5TH GRADE RED WHEEL SALES

MARCH 29—NO SCHOOL, GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 1—KINDERGARTEN SCREENING

APRIL 26— ALL SCHOOL PTO-SPONSORED FIELD TRIP

MAY 3—KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP