



GES Newsletter

Principal's Corner

Mr. John Fast, Principal



It may still officially be winter, but with the warmer temperatures in the air, we are already thinking about our spring gardening project. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of Ms. Zana Manche and her FFA Club who funded and put together three gardening bed boxes for us. We also appreciate Mr. Londell Duerksen who put together a few more boxes so that each classroom now has their own gardening bed. We also want to thank Darcy Nickel for donating top soil and manure for the beds. Once the growing season begins, Mrs. Pam Abrahams will begin her gardening lessons with the classes. Students enjoy planting, watering, and caring for plants that they see eventually providing food as well. The real excitement begins when they come running to the school kitchen with produce!



We also gratefully acknowledge the willingness and helpfulness of Janice Voth and Sandra Duerksen to serve the produce on the ala carte table.

Kindergarten

Mrs. Sheri Janzen, Teacher



The Kindergarteners started 2017 ready to learn! In January we celebrated the 100th day of school and started adding numbers. In February we have been keeping track of

the weather every day and are talking about numbers to 20. Below each student shared a little about what they have learned this year or where they hope to go next

Aubrielle enjoyed learning about the United States and some of our country's symbols.

Andy has enjoyed learning about how to play games in PE.

Bella has learned how her body works and the foods that are healthy for it.

Caden has enjoyed learning about letters and wants to learn more.

Eli enjoys doing patterning activities in centers.

Hoxie has enjoyed learning the names of the Letter People puppets.

Weston learned how to count to 100.

Mackenzie liked learning about insects and their body parts.

Noah has learned how to count.

Rosie has learned all the names of all the teachers.

Ruby has enjoyed learning about addition in math.

Cole liked learning about dinosaurs.

Shelby wants to learn about growing plants.

Sofia wants to learn more about animals and how their bodies' work.

Sophia wants to learn about butterflies and chrysalises.

Jessica wants to learn how to read.

Lilly wants to learn about telling time.

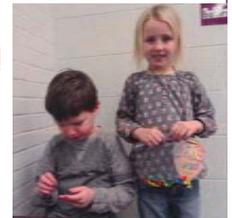
Jathen wants to learn about subtracting numbers.

Kloie wants to learn about different jobs.

Maddie wants to learn about holidays like Easter.

Nivea wants to learn about writing all the letters, both capital and lower case.

We continue to work with letters and sounds and learn how they fit together to help us read. In March we will celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday and make up fun rhymes. We will also start subtraction and begin taking books home to read to our families.





1st Grade

Mrs. Barb Goering,
Teacher



The first graders have been working hard and making lots of progress. So far this semester we've had the opportunity to travel (via stories and pictures) around the globe, learn concepts related to our state and country, learn about the seasons of the year, and we've even gotten to explore how things move in Science. We used magnets, balls, cars, a catapult, marble rolls, and yo-yos to learn about push and pull, gravity, the direction and speed things move, and magnetism.

We're getting better at reading, and now we're able to read longer words and books. We're progressing in our understanding of parts of speech, cause and effect, finding a key idea, and looking for the plot in stories. We're able to read contractions and compound words, words with a variety of vowel and consonant sounds, and words with several syllables in them.

In Math we're memorizing addition and subtraction facts. We even got to play games the fourth graders made for us to practice our facts. Our understanding of place value is improving greatly, as we work on the tens and ones digits in numbers. Sometimes we work with hundreds!

Following are some highlights from the last few weeks that we want to share with you:

- Peter* liked singing in music.
- Kreed* liked eating in the storm shelter room with Mr. Fast and the rest of the class for lunch one day.
- Jo* liked practicing for the music program.
- Delaney* liked doing Reading Eggs on the laptops.
- Athena* liked when *Kreed* was being silly on Wednesday.



Levi liked Big Fat Pony in P.E.
Quinli enjoyed playing Hot Dots during center time.
A J liked Career Cruising in computer time.

Elaina liked seeing her mom during

center time.

Lydia R liked the songs in music.

Cael liked when his mom came for the valentines party.



Nevaeh liked planting a bean seed in a cup in the classroom.

Josh enjoyed playing with friends at center time.

Lydia D enjoyed making a cat out of clay in art.





2nd Grade

Mrs. Ann Hiebert, Teacher

We have been trying to remember that it is still winter, since we have had so many warm days to have recess outside lately! It has been unusual weather, but we have enjoyed it!

Our reading unit has been about camouflage in the animal world. We have enjoyed learning about the interesting ways that animals blend in to stay safe and to hunt. We were intrigued by the decorator crab that uses stuff from its ocean surroundings to create a costume to hide. We read the book, *Mister Seahorse*, by Eric Carle and then made our own seahorses in the same style as his illustrations. We also learned some cool facts about seahorses! Our next reading unit is about courage.

In English, we have worked on writing complete sentences. Not always easy work in second grade! Our favorite poems were about colors we loved that we wrote on big hearts:

Jayley-Red violet smells like a red rose. It tastes like a slushy. It makes me feel happy and I love, love, love it! I would use a crayon that color to make lipstick.

Lakyn-Pink looks like a bright, bright color. Pink sounds like wind. Pink smells like cotton. Pink tastes like sugar.

Peyton-Green is the fresh grass in the garden. Green is the pet turtle in the fresh grass in the garden. Green feels like a gecko in your hand. Green tastes like green ice cream on your tongue.

Natalie-My color is red!!!! It looks like Valentine's Day to me. It sounds relaxing and it smells like roses!!!

Lynn-My favorite color is pink. Pink smells like a rose. Pink looks like hearts. Pink tastes like strawberries. Pink feels like a soft, comfortable pillow. Pink sounds like silence.

Isabelle-Maroon looks like red, purple,

and pink. Maroon sounds like rose petals dropping. Maroon smells like roses. Maroon feels like a blanket. Maroon tastes like rhubarb.

Wyatt-Black is a cat and tastes like black olives. It smells like some dogs playing in the grass. It looks like a rainstorm.

Kurt-My favorite color is gold. Gold is a rock. Gold looks like jewelry. Gold is rare. Gold makes me happy.

Brayton-What is black? It is a bird. It's a cat. It could be a cloudy day. Black is the night.

Abi-Green is the grass. Green is the trees. Green is a turtle. Green is a pond. Green is a fish.

Angelina-I love pink! Pink is pretty. It is a cute color. It's the color lips and a pig. It's really a favorite color that you can wear.

Jenna-Teal looks like a pond. Teal sounds like the summer breeze. Teal smells like cotton candy. Teal feels like the clouds. I love teal!

Eli-Red is...the sound of a fire truck racing down the street and the taste of a burning hot, hot sauce. Red smells like an apple pie getting baked in a bakery. Red feels like when I'm really, really angry. The look of red is when Valentine's Day comes around.

Claudio-I like blue. It is the color of the sky, water, markers, crayons, berries, flowers, pencils, butterflies, whales, and paint. It makes me feel like water. It makes me think about the sky.

Jaylee-Pink is pretty. I like pink a lot. It's the color of a rose. It makes me think of Valentine's Day.

Jessica-What is pink? Pink is my favorite color. Pink is like roses. It tastes like cherries. It smells like strawberries. I love pink!

Cali-What is pink? Pink is the color of a rose and the last color of the rainbow. Pink makes me feel happy just like a cherry. I'm pink from head to toe, but not just my skin, I know. I like pink. So if you want to know what my favorite color is, read this poem and you will see my favorite color is unique!

EV-What is white? My goat is white and a dove too. White is some snow and a marshmallow, a hat, and breath is white. White makes me feel happy. It makes me think good about my goat.

Caleb-Green looks like a leaf. Green smells like grass. Green feels soft. Green tastes like green eggs and ham. Green is quiet. *Kyle*-Yellow is the sun. Yellow is the sign on the board. Yellow is legos I build with. Yellow is the name tag on my desk. Yellow is buttons.

We have learned to regroup in addition in math. We will be learning to regroup in subtraction next. It can be tricky! We also have to do many story problems with regrouping. Math takes a lot of thinking and much time to finish, but we are getting much better at it!

We just finished a unit in science about the surface of the Earth and are working on reports about parts of the solar system.



The Valentine's party was a great time for our class! It was fun to read all the valentines in our bags. We got to make white hearts on red paper with our handprints and we played two really fun games with straws. We



used a straw to suck candy on the end and move it from a cup to a plate. Then we used straws to launch q-tips into a heart-shaped opening in a box. Quite a few of us made some go in the box!



We are looking forward to spring and time in the garden!



3rd Grade

Mr. 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 projects 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.

Anthony: I would like to go to the Hutchinson Fair. I would play on the rides and ride the carousel.



Allison: I'd like to go to Great Wolf Lodge in Kansas City. I'd like to have the water dump on me.

Jadyn: Milford Lake looks like fun. I'd like to camp, swim, and hike there.

Braxton: I want to go to the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson. I really want to see the IMAX theater and the Dr. Goddard's Lab live show.

Aiden D: I want to go to Great Wolf Lodge so I can go slide down the slide a thousand times.

Betsy: I like going to the Sedgwick

County Zoo in Wichita. You can see the cute penguins and get a snow cone.

Trey: I would love to take a tour at Maxwell Wildlife Refuge. You could take a tour up close to the bison there.

Kendal: I'd like to go to 81 Speedway because it has fast racecars. It also has a Mustang that leads some races.

Delaney: I want to go to the World Treasures Museum in Wichita. I would like to see the mummies, the dinosaur fossils, and the world treasures.

Derek: I want to go to Topeka. I'd like to see the statue on top of the capitol.

Hunter: I would like to go to Council Grove Lake in Marion County. I wish to go there to go fishing.

Aida: I would like to go to our Kansas State Capitol in Topeka. I want to see some beautiful paintings.

Evan: I would like to go to Boot Hill Museum in Dodge City again. You can watch gunfights and get your picture taken while dressed up.

Cody: I would like to visit the Kansas Sports Museum in Newton. I want to go because I am a fan of sports like the MLB.



Elly: I want to go to Hutchinson to see the Cosmosphere. I want to go there to see the spaceships.

Justice: I want to go to Big Brutus because I want to climb around in it.

Hailey: I want to go to Great Wolf Lodge. I want to go to the big pool and go down slides and ropes.

Emilia: I'd like to go to the Oz Museum because I could see the rare paint-



ing there. The Oz Museum offers everything imaginable.

Trevor: I would like to visit Amelia Earhart's house in Atchison. I want to learn about the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean by herself.

Claire: The Rolling Hills Zoo would be great for me. I like the lions the most.

Levi: I would to visit Tanganyika to see the Lemurs. The gift shop has great rocks to look at.

Aidan I.: I want to hike on Mr. Sunflower near the Colorado border. I'll take pictures of the flat top and camp there.





5th Grade
Mrs. Abrahams, Teacher

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 we rolled it with the residents 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.

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, 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 di-

vided 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.

In reading we read a novel about Harriet Tubman and how she led many slaves to freedom. At the end of the unit we participated in an Underground Railroad simulation. We were divided into groups. Some of us were conductors. Each conductor had a group of slaves that they were trying to lead to freedom. Others of us were bounty hunters and patrols, who were trying to capture the slaves before they made a run for Canada. This simulation helped us understand how the slaves were treated and what freedom meant to them.



Music ...cont. from page 9

Miranda Tyler, GES 5th grader, performed with the KCDA (Kansas Choral Directors Association) Treble Choir at the KMEA (Kansas Music Educators Association) Convention on February 24 at Century 2 in Wichita.

Miranda auditioned for the choir along with 700 other 5th-9th grade students in the state of Kansas. 200 students were chosen to perform. Goessel was also represented by five 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in the choir.

This is the highest musical honor a 5th grader in Kansas can achieve! Congratulations to Miranda for her accomplishment!

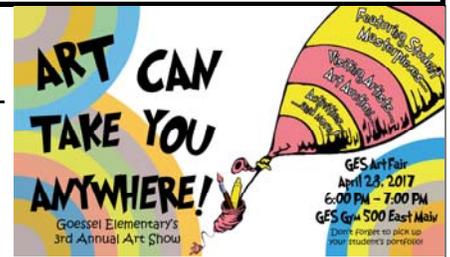
*Where's Miranda Tyler?
Can you find her in the first row?*



ART*Ms. McGee
Teacher*

This year is flying by, and with that, the Art Fair is getting closer and closer! We are very excited to announce this year's theme "Art can take you Anywhere!" Please mark your calendars for April 28th,

from 6-7pm at Goessel Elementary for the 3rd Annual Art fair. Student artwork will be on display, there will be a silent auction, visiting artists, activities, refreshments, and more! Come and go as you please, but silent auction winners will be announced at 6:50. All donations and money raised go back into the elementary art program for supplies...like when our paint brushes fall apart and sharpies go dead.



Besides working on their collaborative pieces for the silent auction, students have been exploring and learning in the Art Room. This year is sprinkled with some tried and true art lessons, family favorites, as well as some new techniques to spice things up! Students work with a variety of medias; I try to expose them to as many different types as possible. Recently I've introduced stop motion animation for 4th grade, Origami apps that teach folding skills for 3rd grade, and new clay projects across the board. I know it's a successful lesson if the kids are enjoying it and learning.

The most important thing in my classroom is that students are exploring and being exposed to different techniques, types of arts, cultures, and artists. I don't base success off of how pretty their artwork is, but the effort that goes into it, and their attitude and respect for materials during the process. One thing that I'm always repeating is that I don't expect it to be perfect; I just want you to try your best. This helps relieve some of that pressure or fear of messing up.

Support your aspiring artist by viewing their artwork on artsonia.com an online gallery of their work. You can leave encouraging comments and like their work. Or you can let them log into a tablet or computer to see their own gallery and comments. You can order gifts from the website designed with student artwork. Besides being a great gift, those purchases work as an additional fundraiser for the classroom, and that was how we got one of our i-pads. Thank you for your support in that form!

I'd also like to thank all of my parent volunteers who take time out of their busy days to come in and help in my classroom, and also help with prep work from home. I really appreciate everything you guys do and couldn't manage without all your help!

Lastly, a fun fact! April 15th is World Art Day, because it was Leonardo Da Vinci's birthday! One of his most famous paintings was the Mona Lisa. When the Mona Lisa was stolen from the Louvre in 1911, the empty space it left on the wall attracted more visitors than the painting had!

**Counselor's
Corner***Mrs. Janna Duerksen*

Another school year is more than half over and we are beginning units with career exploration. The elementary students in grades K-2 are working in ccSparks, an online career program that encourages students to explore 6 locations on the career town map and learn about career paths and a variety of occupation options as well as complete reflection activities. Students in grades 3-5 also use ccSparks and work in Sparksdale, a town that uses characters to teach the students about careers through the episodes and reflection activities. The students have enjoyed this program which also includes problem-solving and social skill practice. Feel free to have conversations with your children about your job(s) and career path.

We are gearing up for the Kansas Assessment Program (KAP). We are scheduled for testing grades 3-5 in Mathematics and ELA (English Language Arts) plus grade 5 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 eats breakfast the morning of a test. Visit <http://www.ksassessments.org/about-kap> for more information about the assessments and links for parents regarding the KS College and Career Ready Standards for each of the subject areas.

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.

Library

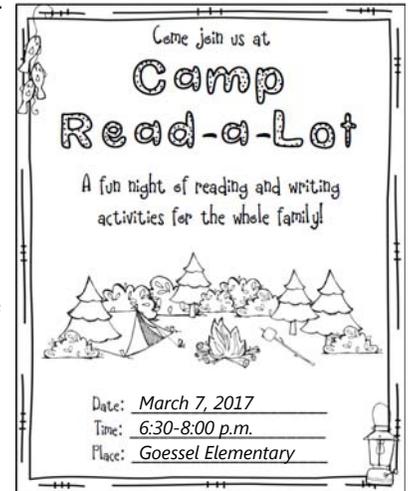
Mr. Russell Pauls
Librarian



The start of a new year has been an exciting one in the library, and with Family Reading Night coming up on March 7, the excitement continues to build.

In Kindergarten, students have been studying circle stories, and the class helped Mr. Pauls write and illustrate the new circle story If You Give a Duck Some Ice Cream. First graders had the opportunity to do book presentations for their classmates that included talking about their books and illustrating a scene from their books. Second grade did a poetry unit, and after looking at many examples, each student wrote and illustrated an original poem. Third graders participated in a detective/mystery unit involving Encyclopedia Brown and a chance to see if anyone has a photographic memory. Fourth graders spent time talking about how to evaluate websites and then had a chance to evaluate some author websites. Fifth graders are putting together book portfolios and will present them soon.

Family Reading Night is on March 7th, and this year, students and parents can come to “Camp Read-a-Lot”. Families will have chances to participate in a variety of activities as well as time to read together. We hope that all of you will come to Family Reading Night!



February AR Store



Staff Interview by

Mrs. Jody Schmidt, Teacher



Featured Teacher:

Mrs. Karen Bonewitz



Our featured staff member this quarter is, Mrs. Karen Bonewitz, Speech and Language Pathologist at Goessel Elementary. This is Mrs. Bonewitz' first year at Goessel Elementary. Mrs. Bonewitz reports she enjoys working with Goessel students. She also shared that the staff and parents at Goessel are truly the best! Prior to coming to Goessel, Mrs. Bonewitz spent 30 years working in Newton schools. Mrs. Bonewitz has been married for more than 40 years to her husband, Don. They live in Newton and have three adult children. Ryan and his family live in Benton, Megan and her family live in Overland Park, and Kyle lives in Wichita. Mrs. Bonewitz has seven grandchildren and will have eight come June! Reading and visiting friends are some of Mrs. Bonewitz' hobbies. She especially loves to travel to warm, sunny climates! Mrs. Bonewitz enjoys Mexican and Italian food. She also has an insatiable sweet tooth! According to Mrs. Bonewitz, Goessel students are friendly, polite, respectful and kind to each other. She sees very little bullying which pleases her greatly. Her advice to Goessel Elementary students is to keep up the good work! She would also like to commend parents on their parenting skills! In closing, Mrs. Bonewitz would like to thank the parents of her speech students for working with their students at home. She has been pleased with the cooperation and support! Welcome to Goessel Elementary, Mrs. Bonewitz!



Vocal Music

Marcia Brubaker, Teacher



Elementary

The K-5 students of Goessel School, directed by Marcia Brubaker, presented their music program on February 16. The theme of the program was “MusicGo” and included songs from the topics of exploring the world, enjoying nature, having fun, building character, and music. The theme was chosen to correspond with the school-wide theme for this year, “BluebirdGo”, which excites students to achieve personal and class goals and to “go after” their goals.

Kindergarten and 1st grade choir had songs related to the themes and shared some favorites such as It’s a Beautiful Day, The Music’s in Me, and The Chicken Dance. *The Chicken Dance* was a favorite for audience and students!

Second through fourth grade choir performed *This Land is Your Land*, *Down Down Baby*, and *This Pretty Planet*, along with other songs.

The 5th grade choir tied the program together with songs and choreography in each of the styles. They will feature *Yakety Yak*, *Stand by Me*, and *Big Yellow Taxi*. A special treat was a 5th grade composition called *Buckets*.

Fifth grade band also performed at the concert. Their songs included favorites such as Mickey Mouse March and Saints Go Marching In. Scott Taylor directs the band.

Thanks to fans of GES students and GES music who supported us on program day! You are the best!! If you missed the program, check out the Goessel YouTube channel on the school website—”Must-see TV!”

....[Music cont. on page 6](#)



Title I

Mrs. Chrystiana Miller, Teacher



Camp Read-A-Lot

Join us for Family Reading Night at “Camp Read-A-Lot” on Tuesday, March 7, from 6:30-8:00pm!



We’ll start out with a Campfire Chat in the gym, followed by stations such as making a “Happy Camper Crunch” snack and reading fluency activities. Of course, there will be plenty of time for “Reading Under the Stars” as a family amid a forest, tents, campfires, and twinkling stars! We’ll end the night with another Campfire Chat together, including singing campfire songs and a special guest reader. Thanks to the support of our PTO, every student who attends will get to pick out a brand new Scholastic book to take home! I hope you and your family will come take part in this event to share the excitement of reading with your children!

**March 7
6:30-8:00pm**

Goessel Elementary

We're on the
web usd411.org



We have **SPiRiT!**

COMING EVENTS

- MARCH 3—END OF THIRD QUARTER—NO SCHOOL
- MARCH 7, 6:30 PM—FAMILY READING NIGHT
- MARCH 10—PTO REDWHEEL SALES BEGIN
- MARCH 20-24—SPRING BREAK
- MARCH 27—PTO MEETING/RED WHEEL SALES END
- MARCH 28—LIFETOUCH INDIVIDUAL/GROUP PICTURES
- MARCH 31—KINDERGARTEN SCREENING FOR 2017-2018
KINDERGARTNERS; NO SCHOOL FOR OUR KD CLASS
- APRIL 11—PTO RED WHEEL PICK UP
- APRIL 13—EASTER PARTIES
- APRIL 14—GOOD FRIDAY—NO SCHOOL
- APRIL 21—PTO BOXTOP ALL-SCHOOL FIELD TRIP
- APRIL 25—3RD GRADE FAMOUS PEOPLE
- APRIL 28—GES ART FAIR
- MAY 8—KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP
- MAY 11—END OF SECOND SEMESTER/LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

MORE PICTURES

