

GKMS Gazette

May 2010

Issue 8

CALENDAR FOR

MAY

- 1 Track @ Plano
- 4 Boys track @ home
- 5 Girls track @ Harvard
- 6 6th Grade Medieval Faire
- 7 NO SCHOOL—
Teachers' Institute
- 10 Band Concert
- 11 Track @ Harvard
- 13 FPS State Bowl
- 14 FPS State Bowl
8th grade Dance @
7:00 pm
- 18 Health Fair
- 19 8th grade Picnic
- 20 Market Day
8th grade to CoCo
Key
- 21 8th grade Promot-
ion at 7:00 pm
- 22 Band/Chorus Great
America Contest
- 25 7th grade COGS
day
School Board Meet-
ing
- 26 6th grade COGS
day
- 27 Last day of school

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK—Mr. Lekkas

8th Grade Promotion

8th grade promotion will take place Friday, May 21st at 7:00 in Hennigan Gymnasium at GKMS. Our keynote speaker is Dr. Wakeley.

GKMS Newsletter

Due to costs associated with mailing the GKMS Gazette newsletter, future issues will be posted on our website. Copies will no longer be directly mailed.

The newsletter may be found as a link on our GKMS Webpage at:

<http://gkschools.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/GKMS>

Another way to access the newsletter is to go to the district page at:

<http://gkschools.org/>
Then, click GKMS and find our school page.

Hard copies will always be available in the office if anyone would like to stop by for one.

Citizen's of the Year

Each year the Lion's Club presents Citizen's of the

Year awards to students. Congratulations to following students: 6th grader, ANDY WALKER; 7th grader, EMMA VILLELLA and 8th grader, GALEN HUGHES.

Last Day of School

The last day of school is Thursday, May 27th from 9:55 am to 10:45 am. All buses will run two hours later than normal. Report cards will handed out and if your student does not attend, you must pick up the report card in the main office. Report cards will not be mailed out.

NEWS FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL—Mr. McPherson

As our school year winds down and the weather gets nicer, it seems appropriate to remind our parents and students the importance of having a strong finish to the school year. May brings good weather, which sometimes can mean distraction from school. We hope each of our students continues to work hard and progress

academically. This will require an extra degree of concentration during this time of year. We also hope our students continue to attend school daily. Attendance is a huge component of a successful end to the school year. Lastly, we know our kids have worked hard and the school year has been long, but it is still very im-

portant that our students continue to behave appropriately at school. We've had such a good year both academically and in terms of behavior, it is important to work hard at this all the way until the last day of school. It has been a great school year at GKMS, and we are proud to work with our students on a daily basis!

2010-2011 REGISTRATION INFORMATION

All registration information and forms will now be available on the Genoa-Kingston district website: www.gkschools.org. **No registration packets will be sent to your home.**

The personal information sheet for your student will be sent home with their report card. Please review, make corrections and answer the other information on that sheet.

Please print and complete the following forms from the website and return with the correct registration fees, payable by cash or check:

- Student Information Sheet— sent home with report cards,
- Transportation Form,
- Emergency Medical Information Form and
- Authorization to Use and Disclose Protected health Information.

If you do not have access to a computer, please call your student's building or the district office and a packet can be made available. Registration information is due by August 2, 2010.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR 2010-2011

If you have not registered your child for kindergarten next school year, please do so at your earliest convenience. School hours are 7:30 to 4:00 Monday thru Friday. If this time is not convenient for you, please contact Davenport

School at 815-784-2448. Our district needs this enrollment information so that we can plan for classes and staff. **Fees are not due at this time.** If you know of someone with a future kindergarten student please encourage them

to register. All families registering will receive a free kindergarten readiness bag filled with many activities to enjoy with your child.

APRIL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our APRIL students of the month! They are:

6th grade

SARAH HOWES

7th grade

ALEXIS DOWNEY

8th grade

WILLIAM CROZIER



8th GRADE DANCE—May 14, 2010

The GKMS Student Council is sponsoring a dance for all GKMS 8th grade students on Friday, May 14th from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. ONLY students that attend GKMS

and are currently in 8th grade are allowed to attend. The cost will be \$5.00 and tickets must be purchased in advance. Doors will not open until 7:00 p.m. and students

need to be picked up promptly at 9:00 p.m. Any parent is welcome to attend with a student.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU—Mrs. Sorensen

As many of you know, I have been on extended leave for medical reasons for much of this semester. It has given me ease of mind to know, however, that Ms. Jennifer Marx has taken my visual art curriculum and risen to a very complex task as my substitute for these many weeks.

I am taking this opportunity to say thank you to her for a job very well done and to encourage those of you whom have had students

work with Ms. Marx this semester to join me.

When things like this happen, I am grateful to know that there are capable and knowledgeable people out there like Jen who can take the reigns and drive with meaningful content and respect for foundational goals.

So, thanks are to Ms. Jennifer Marx for bridging the gap with her own good style.

As for me, I'll be getting back to pack up and redirect over the summer. With a little luck, I'll run into some of you over the summer as I continue to gather strength for another terrific year of visual arts at GKMS in August.

Happy year end and summer vacation.

HEALTH CORNER—Ms. Gawrysh/Miss Chronopoulos

Safety is one of the areas discussed in Health classes. It is important to be aware of how to stay safe when working, playing, when at home or at school. As the warm, summer months approach, and outdoor activities become more common, we thought we would share a few tips on sun, water, and bike safety.

SUN...

- use sunscreen
- wear a hat with brim
- wear sunglasses
- avoid tanning beds, sunlamps

-limit direct exposure during midday

WATER...

- buddy up
- get skilled and know your limits
- swim in safe areas only
- drink plenty of fluids
- be careful about diving

BIKE...

- pick the right bike
- wear a helmet
- wear bright clothing when dark
- don't wear loose pant legs

-wear shoes that grip the pedals
-learn and use "The Rules of the Road"

For more information about safety and other health issues, visit www.kidshealth.org

Have a happy and safe summer.

FROM THE 6TH GRADE TEAM

Reading

The reading strategies taught, during this final quarter, include finding important ideas, summarizing, and synthesizing. We will be analyzing expository nonfiction works as well as functional literature. We will be examining medieval literature, poems, etc. as often as possible, incorporating that Social Studies theme. Students will be applying all reading strategies to novels, reading selections, literature circle books, and Accelerated Reading books, etc.

Language Arts

Word study continues with reading selections, along with the study of prefixes, suffixes and root words. Expository writing continues with research papers. The rules for basic punctuation, capitalization, and grammar will be applied through creative writing. Students will be able to describe the importance of functional literature and it's daily uses in the world around us.

Social Studies

In 6th grade social studies we have just completed our unit of Ancient Rome. The next unit we will be starting is on medieval Europe. We have started talking about the Crusades and how racial and religious persecution has affected history. We will discuss the Middle Ages of Europe and how the feudal system was set up. The Roman

Catholic Church was the major institution during the Middle Ages. We will talk about how several monarchs, such as Charlemagne, helped to unify Europe into larger kingdoms. We will then travel forward in time to the Renaissance and be talking about some of the cultural, political, and technological achievements. We will finish the unit talking about Martin Luther and how the Catholic Church reformed itself.

Math

With the Medieval Faire quickly approaching we are preparing to build and launch our catapults. The competition will be held the first week of May before the Faire. The groups will compete to find the catapults that launch the farthest, most accurate, highest, and with the most force.

After the faire we will then begin the unit on data and graphs. It will cover everything from analyzing to generating graphs (Circle graphs, Stem-and-leaf plots, Histograms.) We will also cover the different measures of central tendencies (Mean, Median, Mode, and Range.)

Science

The Science classes will continue their study of Astronomy. Presently, the students are learning about the different phases of the moon. We will progress on to the

seasons, sun and stars. The last portion of this unit deals with the study of the galaxies, the expanding universe and the big bang theory which will take us to the end of the year.

FROM THE 7TH GRADE TEAM

Reading/Language Arts

We plan to finish the year in Reading with a novel study and a review of all the reading strategies that we have built on this year.

In Language Arts there will be a variety of vocabulary building activities, fictional writing, and grammar.

Math

As we finish another great school year, students will conclude the school year by investigating 3-Dimensional figures and their properties. We will name several figures as well as determine their volume and surface area. We will also revisit probability briefly at the end of the year.

Social Studies

We have finished our examination of the Middle East and North Africa. We have not exhausted every topic on the subject. But students should have a good grasp of the major issues associated with this region: coping with desert climates, importance of oil to many economies, the affect of Islam to their culture, and how countries have competed for resources in sometimes violent ways. Now we are going south through Sub-Saharan Africa. Students should learn that despite rich histories and cultures and beautiful landscape and animal life, many of these countries rank as some of the poorest countries on the planet. The weak governments formed after the evacuation of European

colonizers have left many countries in Africa struggling to find a way to make peace in their countries. We will have a unit essay test over some of these topics in a few weeks. We will finish the year studying countries of south and east Asia: Pakistan, India, China, the Koreas and Japan.

Science

Progress reports are due this week and I can't believe the next report card will be the last for the kids as 7th graders. We have just finished a test over violent weather such as thunderstorms, tornadoes, and hurricanes and the it's onward to the crust of the earth. We have begun by studying the ocean floor, where a chain of the largest mountains circle the globe. This chain marks the boundary where the large sections of the crust called plates are separating and colliding. It is the beginning of the 4th section of our studies: geology.

We are now geologists and will be to the end of the year. We will be studying plate tectonics and the movement of the plates around the world. We will shortly be studying the events that occur where these plates collide and where they spread apart such as earthquakes, volcanoes and the formation of mountain ranges.

By the end of the year we will study types of volcanoes, how various mountain ranges are formed, the rock cycle and forces in nature that build up or wear down the

landmasses we live on.

Homework is still an important part of school. You can help by making sure your child does not let up on their efforts now that school and their 7th grade careers are three quarters over. I think it's been a very successful year so far. Let's work together to insure it ends on a positive note.

FROM THE 8TH GRADE TEAM

Reading/Language Arts

Eighth grade is going to have a busy, yet fun and exciting, end of the school year for language arts class. In language arts, we are wrapping up the school year with the research paper. The research paper is a step-by-step process through which we will carefully guide the students; however, we would like for parents and guardians to also get involved and become an integral part of the process. They can help by making sure their child visits the library

and by questioning and sharing the collected information at home. The students are researching world leaders, famous inventors, or historical American figures depending on their class. The research process, in which the 8th grade students are committed, will be useful throughout his or her life – far beyond the walls of our classroom.

In 8th grade reading classes, students are exploring important ideas in books, stories, and articles. They are making inferences and thinking

about what is important in the text so that they can identify the important ideas. Students have used independent reading and questioning, "Think, Pair, Write," "Heads Together," and other strategies to demonstrate comprehension and to write summaries. For the final few weeks, we will continue to work on all reading strategies so that students will have all the skills they need to succeed in all subjects as they enter high school.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS—Mrs. Sorensen

Physical activity is so essential to growing healthy minds and bodies and so much fun to do out-of-doors with friends and family on warm spring and summer days.

Grassy lawns areas are our primary places for games from tag to volleyball. Those lucky enough to have a large yard for these activities should make regular use of them.

However, after designating a play area of your yard, lawn areas should be minimized for the following 3 main reasons:

1. Lawn care creates pollution
 - * Mowers are notoriously inefficient fuel hogs (stats on this are frightening)
 - * Gas mowers are one of the worst noise polluters of the season (stats on this are

equally alarming)

- * Chemical lawn care treatments are bad for ground water and local air quality
2. Healthy landscapes have variety
 - * Varying your landscape with shrub areas, rock gardens, rain gardens and trellised or spa areas adds visual appeal and creature habitat (the good old birds and bees)
 - * Native plants and tall grass varieties naturalize the area
 - * Hearty, sturdy ground covers are other alternatives to so much plain lawn. Many of these ground covers flower and can handle foot traffic
 3. Mowing takes a lot of time and can be overly strenuous for some during extremely hot

weather.

Remember that except for starting new grass, watering an established lawn in dry weather is extremely wasteful. Grass, once established, can handle extended periods of drought by dying on the top and going dormant underneath. It might not look attractive, but we need to wait out our brown lawns to save the plant's water.

It's good to "touch the green, green grass of home", but consider minimizing your mowable yard. One can still support those backyard fun times while promoting beauty and variety and ease and quiet for rest of your outdoor space.

Enjoy!

HONOR ROLL-3rd Quarter, 2009-2010

8th Grade

HIGH HONORS –Stephanie Alcantar, Drew Anderson, Cristian Beltran, Sean Bensinger, Colin Broderick, Kayla Butz, Sydney Campbell, Vanessa Cardenas, Alanna Carroll, Carinna Corbett, Tiffany Cotner, Olivia Cotton, William Crozier, Tyler Dougan, Nycol Durham, Alyssa Edwards, Jesse Ercolani, Sabrina Gandsey, Adrianna Garcia, Luke Gentile, Benjamin Graff, Mireille Gravelle, Melissa Guardi, Samantha Hansel, Daniel Hansen, Lindsay Hansen, Jamiee Hebert, Galen Hughes, Rachel Joos, Paige Keegan, Autumn Kilgus, Brianna Kramer, Jacob Langford, Tyeler L’Huillier, Salvatore Lopez, Kelly Marshall, Lauren McKinney, Jason McLean, Kaylee Molloy, Amanda Murray, Christopher Neisendorf, Felicia Olson, Perla Orozco, Payton Petruchuis, Emerald Sanders, Andrea Strohmaier, Morgan Thomas, Katelyn Thurlby, Austin Tracey, Briana Vintika, Tyler Walker, Michael Walsh, Rebecca Whittenhall, Connor Willson, Courtney Winters

HONORS – Kodie Aversano, Ronald Aversano, Austin Boehmer, Kristen Bussen, Molly Caldwell, Trevor Carroll, Joanna Cieslica, Jessica Cook, Kara Dalby, Kylie Dalby, Jacob Donlea, Quinten Ebel, Jonathan Falco, Brea Foley, Kathleen Foulker, Pilar Fuentes, Eric Garcia, Austin Gingerich, Justice Graf, Alexis Hardt, Audrey Harjung, Max Hernandez, Hannah Hill, Travis Hughes, William Hull, Krista Johnson, Alicia Julseth, Blake Kout, Michael Kuhn, Drew Lauderdale, Quinton Leitsch, Rebecca Lundgren, Andrew Mammoser, Ana Marquez, Shelby Mazza, Kevin McIntyre, Kevin McKay, Aaron Morton-Lee, Miranda Muniz, Blake Munro, Jacqueline Ochoa, Uriel Ortega, Tiara Overton, Jessalyn Palmer, Adriana Paramo, Federico Parra, Martin Parra, Riley Petrancoستا, Allison Pfeiffer, Katrina Picurro, Rejeigh Pierce, Kayleigh Raab, Paige Ricker, Jose Ruiz, Russell Schumacher, Kasey Semmens, Margaret Springer, Destiny Stroud, Lindsey Sunderlage, Jessica Tinoco, Steven Uszcienski, Jamaal Williams-Torres, James Worthy, Samantha Zerlin

7th Grade

HIGH HONORS – Cassidy Abraham, Kellie Armstrong, Viviana Beltran, Erin Boester, Kayla Bratcher, Jaclyn Butler, Khloe Butz, Gina Calendo, Kimberly Capes, Nancy Cardenas, Nickolas Cartee, Matthew Cieslica, Brett Devine, Kayleigh Engles, Tiffani Finley, Rachel Gathman, Ashley Grimm, Kayla Gurnitz, Bridget Halat, Keagan Hanson, Hannah Harland, Krystian Harrison, Nicole Hebel, Jonathan Hoffstead, Kevin Hughes, Jacqueline Jacober, Emma Jones, Jacob Kryca, Karli Lancaste, Megan McCausland, Katherine McCluskey, Joshua Michael, Joseph Murray, Robert Nay, Rachel Olson, Kaley Oplt, Steve Orozco, Paige Oucheriah, Kristen Pacey, Sylvanna Parra, Caitlynn Pryor, Jenny Puckett, Cortney Rippberger, Breea Rogalla, Chase Rogers, Hunter Rogers, Tyler Schambach, Alexander Siksna, Trevor Simmons, Urska Suligoj, Megan Theiner, Maribel Tinajero, Jillian VanDerHeyden, Emma Villella, Alanna Wilcox

HONORS – Alysse Ahlensdorf, Jesse Bade, Chyanne Beach, Will Beach, Matthew Beaulieu, Jordan Bennett, Tyler Bennett, Kira Bensinger, Trevor Bollech, Nicholas Brandeis, Kendra Deskins, Allison Dietrich, Alexis Downey, Jessica Drendel, Nathan Dwyer, Uriel Espinoza, Kayla Ferguson, Marisol Flores, Anthony Giorno, Christopher Guzy, Katelyn Hansen, Cassandra Holden, Marcus Holley, Tyler Janes, Justin Johnson, Evening Kennedy, Benjamin Kruse, Anthony Lacko, Timothy Maynard, Griffin McNeal, Hailey Miculescu, Phillip Mohr, Justyn Morton, Daniel Newborn, Christian Ordlock, Allison Perkins, Samantha Peters, Taylor Pry, Jacob Reyes, Cody Rice, Lona Rowland, Michael Schultz, Michael Semmens, Joseph Sosa, Blake Sunderlage, Dorian Tijerina, Baylie Ullmark, Joseph Uszcienski, Shawnee Watson, Hannah Zapatka, Brianna Zenk

6th Grade

HIGH HONORS – Jacob Almquist, Grace Andersen, Kendall Bacon, Steven Baker, Torri Bennett, Ethan Broderick, Briana Campbell, Justin Campbell, Melissa Clemente, Thomas Corbett, Arielle Emmens, Mikaela Ferrara, Brandon Foley, Devin Guard, Holly Hansen, Thomas Hansen, Elizabeth Hanson, Terje Hensley, Ellee Holden, Sarah Howes, Riley Jenner, Thomas Kathalynas, Katelynn Kinsman, Emilie Kottmeier, Katey Kurpius, Jake Lauderdale, Thomas Lucca, Carly Lundgren, Jessica Mauger, Kristin McKinney, Matthew Musielski, Jose Ocelotl, Alison Pacey, Abigail Pahnke, Derrick Petruchuis, Abbey Rasmussen, Stephanie Routson, Daniel Russell, Jason Sester, Jackson Shortridge, Emilee Sichz, Brendyn Sonntag, Collin Stratton, Derek Tijerina, Dakota Tomisek, Jacob Wakeley, Andrew Walker, Caitlin Walker, Matthew Walsh, Alexander Widmayer, Christopher Wood

HONORS – Jared Barton, Cody Beeman, Devon Brewington, Kylie Buie, Elizabeth Buschbacher, Andrew Caldwell, Jamie Campbell, Kaitlyn Campbell, Lauren Chester, Joshua Cook, Kailey Cooper, Luis Dehuma, Madelyn Demings, Noah Engles, Gianna Focht, Taylor Fowler, Chance Frankowiak, Odalys Galarza, Joshua Goff, Rakym Goodman, Zachary Gschwind, Erika Hansel, Brock Heiniger, Kelly Hensley, Brady Huffman, Danielle Johnson, Mara Kettner, Haley Kohout, Jacob Linneman, Bly Logan, Tabitha Long, Jennifer Lopez, Alexis Lucio, Caitlin Marinkovich, Samantha Marth, Dani Mathey, Claire McCurdy, Kevin McLean, Joseph McNulty, Andrew Mercado, Ireland Milinac, Dominic Morocco, Riley Oberg, Brandon Paradies, Morgan Picolotti, Tyler Pope, Kyle Quintell, Andrew Raab, Manuel Rangel, Mitchell Rausch, Jack Richardson, Bonnie Roberts, Marcelo Ruiz, Rosemary Sanders, Katlin Schambach, Joseph Schultz, Kegan Shannon, Karli Smith, Joseph Stanley, Kendyl Strack, Nicholas Strauch, Mary Toczykowski, Claudio Viramontes, Andrew Voltz, Jacob Walitzer, Garrett Windau, Alyssa Yager, Breanna Young, Jocelyn Zapatka

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We are on the web!

www.gkschools.org/ms



The GKMS office has COGS umbrellas for sale for \$15.00. If interested please contact the office at 815-784-5222.