



Issue # 1 December 2008

# K-L Flier

Greater Nanticoke Area School District Nanticoke, PA 18634

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## Message from Our Principals

GNA Elementary Center  
Dr. Mariellen Scott

and

Kennedy Elementary  
Mrs. Mary Ann Jarolen

The Chinese have a saying: "May you live in interesting times." How true that sentence is for 2008! We have seen gas prices rise to over \$4.00 per gallon during the summer and fall to \$1.79 today. Michael Phelps won 8 Olympic gold medals in swimming. This year we elected the first African American President. We had a woman running for President and another woman running for Vice President. If you have a dream and work hard, you can make it come true.

Happy Holidays to you and your family with good health, much happiness, and excellent PSSA scores in the new year!

## K-L Flier Staff

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## 2008-2009 K-L Flier Reporters

Jordan Bavitz  
Alexis Cardone  
Amber Grohowski  
Gloria Evans  
Skyla Mayotte  
Morgan Mislitski  
Alyssa Petroski  
Brent Piontkowski  
Tori Rozell  
Alexis Seery  
Alexis Selli  
Rita Stedner  
Juliana Waclawski

### Summer Book Reports

The first issue of the K-L Flier features our summer book reports. We were busy reading and wanted to share out thoughts about the books we read.

Jordan Bavitz

I read the story Fudge a Mania written by Judy Blume. In the story, there is a little boy named Peter. He starts to get very sad because he is going to marry Sheila Tubman. Sheila is one of Pete's worst enemies. After that, there was a babysitter who took care of Peter and Fudge while their mom and dad had to go out shopping. She was very nice to Peter and Fudge. They played games and had lots of fun. After that fudge turned blue from eating a lot of blueberries. Don't ask me how. Maybe you should try to read this book. If you want a reporter's point of view, I think that it was pretty interesting because it had a lot of unusual things in it.

I also read the story Young Cam Jansen and the Baseball Mystery written by David A. Adler. A little girl named Amy hit a home run and then they couldn't find the ball. A man found the ball. He was playing with his dog. He was throwing it and the dog was trying to fetch it. Cam saw the dog and the man playing with the ball. Cam told the man that it was their ball and that they were playing baseball. She asked for the ball back and the man said yes. If you want a reporter's point of view, I think that it tells a pretty good story and that the author was very smart to write this book because it is very interesting.

Alexis Cardone

I read The Babysitting Wars by Mimi McCay. The book was about Kaitlyn Sweendney, who was the top babysitter in Marshfield Lake until super sitter Nola moves to town and starts stealing her clients away. Kaitlyn

thought she and Nola were in a babysitting competition but Nola had no idea. But when Kaitlyn was in trouble babysitting for the richest family in town, the children locked her in the pantry. Kaitlyn called Nola for help and, after that Kaitlyn and Nola became friends. I liked this story because it kept my interest and it taught a good friendship lesson.

I also read Attack of the Growing Eyeballs by Lin Oliver. The story was about Daniel Funk who lived in a house full of girls but always wanted a brother. But when Daniel shrunk to the size of his fourth toe he discovered he does have a brother, a very little brother Pablo Funk, a toe full of trouble. Daniel and Pablo were very mischievous and found out it is very dangerous being so small. I liked this book because it kept my interest. It was very funny with entertaining trivia.

Brent Piontkowski

I read the story Dragon of the Red Dawn written by Mary Pope Osborne. In the story a man named Merlin won't eat, sleep, or talk to anyone in Camelot. Two kids named Jack and Annie take an adventure to the capital of Edo [now the city of Tokyo], in old Japan in the 1600's. They find one of the secrets of Merlin. I would tell someone to read this book if they wanted to learn about Tokyo in the 1600's.

I read the story A Night in Camelot written by Mary Pope Osborne. In the story two characters named Jack and Annie find four magical magicians who protect them from an evil sorcerer. Jack and Annie go to Paris to stop the evil sorcerer. They also attended the 1889 Paris World Fair. If you read a lot of these books, I would tell you not to read this book.

Gloria Evans

I read the story Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH by Robert C. O'Brien. In the story, Mrs. Frisby's son, Timothy, got very sick and she needed help moving her house before the farmer plowed. She visited

Mr. Ages, the old white mouse, and he took her to the rats of NIMH. They were very intelligent rats that escaped from a lab. They knew how to read and built a magnificent underground city. Mrs. Frisby knocked Dragon, the cat, out so the rats can move her house. But she got caught and she heard the farmer say the exterminator is coming. She warned the rats and all but a few escaped. I would recommend this book to my friends because it kept me wanting to read more. It was so interesting you could almost picture it in your mind.

Amber Grohowski

I read the Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume. The story was about a boy named Peter who was angry about Fudge getting all the attention just because he's younger. But about the cereal scenario, he liked that. The one thing he hated the most that Fudge did was that he ate Peter's turtle, Dribble. This is what happened throughout the story. I liked this story because I thought that it was funny. I would think that my friends would enjoy this also.

I also read A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle. The story was about an unexpected visitor who stopped at Meg's house on a stormy night and her mom invited her in. She had these pieces of material on her. Then, once she took them off, Charles recognized his teacher, Mrs. Whatsit. They traveled through dimensions and couldn't feel themselves in the dark. Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who, Mrs. Which, and the children went to visit the Happy Medium with the crystal ball. After that was all done, they traveled back to Meg's mom and the twins. Meg's mom was so happy to see them, but she saw Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who, and Mrs. Which and they suddenly vanished. This is what happened in the book. I would love to tell my friends about this book because I thought this was the best book I ever read.

Skyla Mayotte

My first summer book report was on The Chocolate Touch. The author of this story is Patrick Skeen Catling. It was about John Midas who ate a piece of chocolate that made his every bite turn into Chocolate. His

pencil turned into chocolate, and he got into trouble, because he ate it, and he did not have anything to write with. So he tried to get rid of it. He went into the back of the room to get a drink, and the water turned into milky, creamy chocolate. Then he was stuck with it forever. I would tell a friend to read this book, because it was very interesting. It was similar to the story of King Midas because whatever he touched would turn into gold. Everything John touched with his mouth would turn into chocolate. That is why I would tell a friend about this book.

I did my second summer book report on Ramona Quimby, Age 8 by Beverly Cleary. She had her first day of school and she was excited to go to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. She did not want to boil an egg so she backtalked the teacher and got in trouble. The next day it was raining and she did not have school. The whole day she was so bored. She called it the rainy boring Sunday. It was hard but she finally found something to do and was happy for that. She took a ride with her family. I would tell a friend about this book because it is like it is really happening.

Morgan Mislitski

I did my summer book report on Thanksgiving Thief by Carolyn Keene. The story is about a group of kids called the Clue Crew. They get that name because they solve mysteries. Their names are Bess, Nancy and George. Also in the story a girl named Nancy Drew tries to solve mysteries all over. I would tell a friend about this book because I like how it talks about friends and friendship.

Tori Rozell

The story is called Henry and Risby. The author's name is Beverly Cleary. In the beginning of the story, Risby the dog was in lots of trouble. In the middle of the story, Henry, the boy, and his father made a deal.

If he could keep the dog out of trouble, he would take him fishing. Then, Risby tried to bite the garbage man. At the end of the story, Henry went fishing with his dad. I would tell a friend to read this book because it had some problems in it and I read how they fixed them.

Alexis Seery

I read the book Cam Jansen: The First Day of School Mystery. The author of this book was David A. Adler. This story was about the first day of school for Cam and Eric, Cam's best friend. Their new teacher Mrs. Benson was taken out of class because the police thought she left the scene of a crime when she hit a tree with her car. Cam and Eric tried to give the principal and the police information to prove that Mrs. Benson was innocent. The police found the thief responsible for stealing Mrs. Benson's car and she was found innocent. I would recommend this book to a friend, because I love mysteries and most of my friends do too.

I read the book Ramona Quimby, Age 8. The author of the story was Beverly Cleary. The story was about this week in Ramona's class, when a hard-boiled egg fad started in the third grade. Ramona cracked the egg to her head to try to break it open. It turns out that the egg really wasn't boiled and went all over her hair. The secretary helped Ramona wash the egg out of her hair. Ramona and her sister Beezus refused to eat their dinner, because their parents made tongue and they didn't like it. The next night, their parents made them cook dinner. The dinner turned out pretty good, but the kitchen was a mess. Ramona and her family went out to the Whopperburger for dinner. A stranger saluted Ramona and asked her if she listens to her mother. Ramona didn't answer. When the Quimby's were done eating, their waitress said "The man across the aisle has already paid for you." The Quimby's were shocked. I would recommend this book to a friend, because it was funny in some parts. The way it was written made it feel like it was really happening and it was suspenseful in some parts.

Alexis Selli

I read the book Superfudge.

The author of this story is Judy Blume. This story is about when Peter wasn't happy when his mother announced she was going to have another child. Fudge was jealous of his new sister, Tootsie, so he started to act like a baby. Fudge played games with Tootsie and one day he hid her in the closet so their family couldn't find her. Peter was unhappy about his family moving to Princeton. Fudge got a Myna bird that speaks French. I would tell my friend to read this book, because it is a genuinely funny story dealing with the problems and joys of modern life. This book holds your interests. Judy Blume is an author of many books.

I read a book about Ramona Quimby, age 8.

The author of this story is Beverly Cleary. This story is about when Ramona's dad gave her a pink eraser on her first day of third grade for good-luck. A boy named Danny, the Yard Ape, took the eraser off of her and she got very upset. Ramona brought a hard-boiled egg to school, because it was a fad started by the third grade. She cracked the egg on her head and found out it was soft-boiled. Ramona got sick and she threw-up in front of her class. I would recommend this book to a friend, because it is a very great book. Ramona is a very funny character. This book held my interest. Beverly Cleary is a great author. She earned many prestigious awards.

Rita Stedner

I read the book HOOT over the summer, by Carl Hiaasen.

This is a summary of what happens in the story HOOT. A boy named Roy Eberhardt moved from Montana to Florida and is used to being the new kid at school. Roy sees a strange boy and is curious about why he is running and what he is running from. So Roy follows the running boy and he is lead to an old rusty construction area. He finds some burrowing owls and wants to save them from danger. Would I tell a friend about this? Yes, I would tell a friend because I liked this story a lot. If I like it, my friends might like it too. I loved how the author, Carl

Hiaasen, used such flavoring words. It made the story like soup ready to be spiced up. This is what I did over the summer for my book report.

Juliana Waclawski

I did my first summer book report on Freckle Juice. The author is Judy Blume. The main things that happened in the story are that Andrew wanted freckles so he asked Sharon. He made the secret recipe and got sick. His teacher gave him some magical freckle remover to get rid of his freckles. I would tell my friend to read this book because she likes books by Judy Blume.

I did my second book on Cam Jensen and the Mystery of the Stolen Diamonds. The author is David A. Adler. The main things that happened in the story are that there was a robbery at a jewelry store. A man ran out of the store, but he wasn't the thief. It turned out that the couple with the baby stole the diamonds because he put them in the rattle. I would tell my friend to read this book because she likes Cam Jensen books.

#### Grandparent's Day Alexis Cardone

On Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> of October the second grade classes of Kennedy School put on a show for their grandparents under the direction of Mrs. Brubaker, the new music teacher here at GNA, and Mrs. Bunnell and here's what happened.....

Interview with Mrs. Bunnell

Q: How many classes were there in the program?

A: There were 7 classes in the program.

Q: How many songs were there in the program?

A: There were 6 songs and 1 speech.

Q: Were the kids happy to do the program?

A: Yes the kids were tremendously excited to do the program.

Q: Were they all behaved?

A: Yes the kids were all behaved.

Q: Did the grandparents like the program?

A: Yes the grandparents loved the program.

Q: How many kids recited a poem?

A: 14 kids recited poems in the program.

Q: How can you make a comparison to this year and all the years you have been doing this?

A: 1. There definitely was a bigger group (7 classes.)

2. I really challenged them.

3. They really impressed me.

The helpers for the program were.....

Mrs. Rodski – Ashley Rake, Christian Lackner

Ms. Paganucci – Kaylee Simmons, Christian Mavus

Mrs. Levandoski – Mary Shemanski, Casandra Tolodzieski

Ms. Roback- Kelsi O'Connor, Veronica Penko

Ms. Rokosz-Jena Niewinski, Michael Panagakos

Ms. Koretz- Kendal Grimm, Tyler Goss

Mrs. Williams- Kaeley Zatorski, Dylan Szychowski

The Grandparent Day Program featured The Star-Spangled Banner,

America, Motivated, Ode to Grandparents,

GNA Chant, and Happy Grandparents Day.

#### Grandparent Rap

It's grandparents Day

And we're here to say.

We love our grandparents in

A major way.

So sit right down and take a seat

And we'll put on a show that can't be beat

Some grandparents are skinny

Some eat a lot

Some are funny

Some are not

Some short, some tall,

Some big, some small.

It doesn't matter.  
We love them all.

Playground  
Rita Stedner

Here is a little update about the playground improvements.

Gabriella Pezella

Q: What do you like out on the playground?

A: The obstacle course by the fence because it is fun, entertaining, and slightly addicting.

Naja Alicea

Q: What do you like out on the playground?

A: The painted hands because she likes to walk on her hands with them.

Gloria Evans

Q: What do you like out on the playground?

A: She likes the watermelon because it is fun and you get to walk on it.

used cameras, scripts, and information about the weather, the lunch menu, and history trivia. They tell the joke of the day, poem of the day, and the patriots of the day lead us as we pledge to the flag.

Good Morning GNA recently had a writing contest. The Good Morning GNA television studio under the direction of Mrs. Cormier along with the PTA sponsored a writing contest for students in grades 2 through 5. The students were given a story in which they had to complete the end of the story. The writing contest was judged by high school students in Mrs. Cumberland's Advanced Placement English Class. The winning students received a certificate and a \$25.00 gift card to Wal-Mart. Dr. Mariellen Scott is principal at the Elementary Center and Mrs. Mary Ann Jarolen is principal at Kennedy Elementary.  
2<sup>nd</sup> grade winner-Jonathan McDaniels Mrs. Levandoski  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade winner-Emily Scott Mrs.Lach  
4<sup>th</sup> grade winner-Breanna Koernig Ms.Mulaski  
5<sup>th</sup> grade winner-Amber Grohowski Mrs.Polifka

TV Studio

Brent Piontkowski & Jordan Bavitz

New to the Elementary Center this year, is our brand new TV studio. Broadcasting live every morning is Good Morning GNA. This name was thought of by Mrs. Polifka's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class. Recently we had our first showing, and in our opinion it was great. We're not the only ones who thought it was great, Kari Radginski and Chaquana Zendarski from Mr. Grant's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class agreed. Mr. Grant thought that it was tremendous. Many people helped out with the broadcast. 5<sup>th</sup> grade students Brent Piontkowski, Danielle Green, Maia Britton, Jacob Havey, Chistopher Dennis, and Naja Alicea. These students are a part of the broadcast. Mrs. Cormier and Mrs. Kalinay made this broadcast possible. The TV crew

**Remember  
Our new  
dress code  
begins on  
January 5,  
2009!**

## Bulletin Boards

Alexis Seery & Morgan Mislitski

There are many great bulletin boards on display at GNA. We sent a few reporters to collect samples so they could be featured in the K-L Flier. Here is what we found.

### Grade 2

Joey Mayewski in Mrs. Williams' class wrote a story called "That Witch". He wrote one super sentence describing what, when, and where. He wrote that evil scary witch flew on her broomstick for Halloween.

Michayla Brennan in Mrs. Levandoski wrote a story My Ghost's name is Buddy. He likes to play games. He plays hide and seek with me.

### Grade 3

Savana Gwynn in Ms. Yustat's class wrote a story called "A Girl Who Was Not Afraid of Anything". Once upon a time my one friend was at school. Everybody in our class was invited to a Halloween Party. At the end of the day the teacher was not in the class with his students. She went up in front of the class room and said I am not afraid of anything. So, at the Halloween Party everybody was a scary person and she was a fairy. She ran out of the room. She never went to a Halloween party again. The End

Kaitlyn Bigas is in Mrs. Stelma's class and wrote words to spell Halloween.

Happy Halloween

Autumn

Lights

Lots of fun

Owl

Wolf

Enter if you dare

Everone goes trick or treating

Nightmare

### Grade 4

Leonard Croop is in Mrs. Biehl's class and he wrote words to spell out spider.

Spooky

Pranks

Icky

Dime

Exit

Rocket

Andrea Grey in Mrs. Kalie's Class wrote a Haiku

I love my grandparents

They always bring me lots of stuff.

I love them very much.

### Grade 5

Benjamin Sersen is in Mrs. Pollifka's class and he wrote out words to spell out grandparent.

Great

Responsible

Always caring for me

Nice

Doing good deeds

Playful

Always taking me for breakfast when school is canceled

Respectful

Endless joyfulness

Never lets me down

Trustworthy

Gianna Roberts in Mr. Matusek's class wrote out words to spell grandparents.

Great

Respectable

Awesome

Nice

Delightful

Perfect

Agreeable

Responsible

Excellent

Neat

Terrific

Super

Alexis Selli in Mr. Bruza's class wrote ten things about why she loves her grandparents.

10. They take me anywhere they go and they spoil me.

9. They help me with my homework and show me how to improve in soccer.

8. They always trust me.

7. They cook the best food.

6. They help cheer me up when I'm having a bad day.

5. They are always there for me.

4. They help me make the right choices.

3. They take me where I need to go.

2. They take care of me when I'm sick.

1. They always love me.

Morgan Mislitski of Mr. Bruza's class wrote ten things about why she loves her grandparents.

10. They are kind to me.
9. Their sleepovers are the best.
8. If I need a ride they are by my side.
7. They keep me company at all times.
6. I can tell them secrets
5. They take good care of me and my sister.
4. They are special.
3. They take me places.
2. Sometimes I need someone to talk to like them.
1. They love me for who I am.

Alexis Seery from Mr. Bruza's class spelled out what she liked most about her grandparents.

10. You're loving.
9. You're caring.
8. You are a lot of fun.
7. You help me when I need it.
6. You take me places.
5. You come to all our parties.
4. You watch me during the day.
3. You play games with me.
2. You're always there for me.
1. You're the best grandparents anyone could ask for.

### Classroom Connection

Here are some of the great things happening in our classrooms.

Mrs. Levandoski & Mrs. Rodski

Students from Mrs. Rodski's and Mrs. Levandowski's second grade classes wrote letters to Santa. This project was done in cooperation with advanced placement English classes of the G. N. A. High School. Mrs. Tonya Cumberland is the teacher. The high school students proof read the letters and made sure they were delivered to Santa at the North Pole. The second grade students are hoping Santa writes back to them. The high school students assured that Santa will do that! The following are two samples of their writings.

My name is Bianca Smith and my teacher is Mrs. Rodski. We wrote letters to Santa. I've been helping my Nanny. Please bring me Moon Sand and a Necklace. Can you please bring my Mama a ring and my Dad a shirt and pants? Thank you a lot.

Dear Santa,  
My name is Bella Czeck and I am in Mrs. Levandowski's second grade class. I have been a good girl. In school I listen to my teacher. I help out at my home by keeping my room clean. Please bring me "Lucky" the dog and a text messaging set for Christmas. I would like that because I love dogs and I want to text my Gramama. How is everything at the North Pole? I was wondering if it is cold there. How are the reindeer? I hope that you have a good trip. Santa, please write back if you can and Merry Christmas to you!

Mrs. Rodski  
Alyssa Petroski

Ms. Rodski students wrote about their best school subject and also about their worst school subject. Kyra Rustay listed reading as her best school subject and social studies as her worst school subject. Jacob Matte stated math as his favorite school subject. For a classroom project on good Neighbor Day Brinley Sobeck helped her friend Christian tie his shoes. Casey Lyons will help Leandro tie his shoes and share her snack. Shawn Timms will take out his Neighbor's dogs. Luke Lamoreaux will be a friend to Christian at recess time.

Mrs. Lach

Skyla Mayotte

A girl named Codi Hornlein in Mrs. Lach's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class did an article on what the class did so far in the school year. She wrote ...We made peanut butter and "that was very fun" said everyone. We had one science test and it wasn't too hard if you could believe that. There were not a lot of people who were good at estimating in math. The one thing everyone did not do very well on was regrouping. I thought it was fun but everyone else didn't like it. One thing we did not do yet was our Christmas project.

Mrs. Lach

Juliana Waclawski

Emily Scott in Mrs. Lach's class wrote about making peanut butter. What is that noise Splat, Splat, Splat! Oh, never mind it's Mrs. Lach's class making peanut butter. Kyle Stratton said it was very delicious. He liked the cracker with the jelly and homemade peanut butter the best. We made the peanut butter on November 10, 2008. They made it by using a food processor. Sarah Adkins taught when it's turned on it was better than the melting butter channel! "It really does exist".

Mrs. Wanchisen

Morgan Mislitski & Alexis Serry

Representative Paul Kanjorski visited Mrs. Wanchisen's class for Grandparent's Day. He came to their class because he is a relative of Elizabeth Kanjorski. She feels happy because he is happy. She feels sad because she does not get to see him very often. Morgan Briggs felt surprised to meet him and felt he had a good chance of winning the election. Paige Mislitski was surprised to meet a congressman. They were in music class when he came in for Grandparent's Day. Justin Wolfe said he was excited to meet him. All of you might ask if he was running for congress. If you said yes, you are correct! If you had a chance to meet Representative Kanjorski and ask one question what would you ask him?

Mrs. Wanchisen's class celebrated Grandparent's Day by using their poetic license to write Haikus, which are Japanese poems.

Kayla Aufiero wrote  
"Grandma and Grandpa  
I love you so very much  
So give me a hug"

Justin Wolfe also wrote a Haiku  
"My grandmother pat  
And my grandmother Alene  
I love them so much"

Haikus weren't the only thing Mrs. Wanchisen's class was working on. They were working on science classification extra credit. Danielle O'Conner and Ryan Grodzicki said the extra credit was fun and easy. They said it was also fun for their families.

Tyler Mayo reported on invertebrates which are animals lacking a vertebrae column or backbone. They don't have an internal skeleton made of bone. Many have fluid-filled skeletons, like the jelly fish or worm. Others have a hard outer shell like insects and crustaceans. Invertebrates live in a vast range of habitats from forests and deserts to caves and seabed mud. Invertebrates are the most numerous animals on earth. Nearly two million species have been identified to date.

Tyler also reported on vertebrates which are animals with a backbone or an internal skeleton made of bones. They include primates, such as humans and monkeys, amphibians, reptiles and birds. Vertebrates are the most advanced organisms on earth. Amphibians are vertebrates that spend part of their lives under water (breathing with gills) and living on land (breathing with lungs). Vertebrates represent a small percentage of all animals. Their size and mobility allow them to dominate the environment. Compared to invertebrates there are not as many species of vertebrates. The reason is that vertebrates are larger than invertebrates. They need more space and are more advanced and have limitations because of the environment that is available to them.

Mrs. Polifka  
Gloria Evans

For Grandparents' Day in Mrs. Polifka's 5th grade class, we had a fabulous time. The things we got were suitable for the children and grandparents. My Grandparents enjoyed the story Mrs. Polifka read to us about Grandparent's Day, meeting the kids in my class and seeing other grandparents they went to school with. We took them to music class and we did interviews. It was very interesting to learn the important parts of their childhood, such as, the happiest and saddest moments of their lives and history. My grandparents were born in 1939 & 1947. So they know a lot about history like the assassination of John F. Kennedy and the end of World War II. I can say my favorite part of Grandparent's Day was spending time with my grandparent's. I appreciate and respect them. Pay attention and you can learn a lot from them.

Literature Circles  
Amber Grohowski

We have been doing something exciting in Mrs. Polifka's class with Mrs. Loszynski's help. Literature Circles are small temporary discussion groups comprised of students who read the same story or poem. Each group reads a different book and each member in the group takes on a specific responsibility for group discussions. The summarizer (gives a summary), illustrator (draws a picture), word wizard (displays interesting words), connector (connects to real life), passage picker (reads parts of the story aloud), and discussion director (asks questions about the story) are the different student roles. The teacher is the facilitator. Discussion topics come from students. They exchange opinions, interpretations, and questions about literature.

Interview with Scott Stout

Q: How well do you think your group is working together?

A: I think they're working very well and doing well.

Q: Which role do you like the best and why?

A: I like Able Artist or illustrator because I like to draw.

Q: Which role do you dislike or have trouble with?

A: I don't like Connector because it's a little harder than the other roles.

Q: Do you have any trouble understanding the roles, which role?

A: No, I don't think so.

Q: Do you like any of the stories you're reading, why?

A: I like "Crater Lake" because I like volcanoes.

Q: Do you think the change in the groups were good or bad and why?

A: I think the change was good because it's easier with a smaller group.

Q: Why do you think we have Literature Circles?

A: I think that the Literature Circles are to help us in the future to work individually.

Q: Have you ever done anything like this or similar to this, when?

A: No, I never did anything like this at least I can't remember.

Interview with Mrs. Loszynski

Q: Who do you think is achieving their goals, or the roles?

A: Naja is working very well explaining Word Wizard. Jordan is very good with Connector and making connections.

Q: What will this teach kids in the future or help them in their lives?

A: Hopefully the strategies in groups could help them independently.

Q: When do you think this will help them in their life?

A: When they normally read, I think.

Q: Were you excited about this program?

A: Yes, I was very excited. It was very different.

Q: How do you think the groups are working out? Would you rather have us work by ourselves?

A: I think they're working well learning now that we changed the groups around.

Q: Why are we doing this, and is Mrs. Polifka's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class the only class doing it?

A: I'm pretty sure Mrs. Polifka's is the only class doing it, and we all try to have fun with reading.

Q: Do you like helping kids with this program?

A: Yes, I love it, and it's probably my favorite part?

Q: What group would you like to be in if you were a student and why?

A: Probably my own group because they are working very well.

Q: What role would be your favorite if you were a student again, why?

A: I would say Connector because it takes real life and connects it with the book. That is very helpful.

Q: What are Literature Circles?

A: It's a more structured way to discuss a book your reading.

Q: What does Literature mean?

A: It means what kind of book you're reading (nonfiction, fiction, realistic, tall tales, fairy tales, etc.)

Interview with Mrs. Polifka

Q: Who do you think is achieving their goals?

A: All groups can achieve their goals, but some groups needs to review the roles a little more.

Q: What will this teach kids or help them with in the future?

A: It will teach them to become a life long reader and learn to take responsibility for their own comprehension.

Q: When do you think this will help them in their life?

A: It will probably help anytime they are going to read a book.

Q: Were you excited about the Literature Circles, why?

A: I was very excited, because I want to see kids grow and understand what they're reading and help them to achieve.

Q: How do you think the groups are working out, and would you have us work by ourselves and why?

A: I wouldn't like having them work by themselves because the groups are doing well with the routine.

Q: Why are we doing this, and are we the only class doing Literature Circles?

A: We are the only class, and it's a pilot program to see how they're improving on comprehension.

Q: Do you like helping kids with this program, why?

A: Yes, I like watching the students grow, and become better readers.

Q: What group would you like to be in if you were a student and why?

A: It wouldn't really matter to me.

Q: What role would you like to do if you were a student and why?

A: I like the Connector role because it makes the book relate to your own life.

In conclusion, we are learning to understand what we are reading. We can have discussions with other students in our class about the stories. We are having fun learning in our Literature Circles!

Mrs. Polifka

Rita Stedner

"Nature's Fury" is one of the themes on our fifth grade reading anthology. Our class made projects for this theme. Anthony Galli made a volcano. Here is what he said during the interview.

Q: Who was involved with the project?

A: His mother, father, and older sister helped him.

Q: What made you do this type of project?

A: I thought it would be fun to build a volcano and to make it explode .

Q: When did you do it?

A: Anthony did it on the weekend after the assignment was given on October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Q: Where did you make it?

A: Anthony made his volcano at home with his family.

Ms. Thomas

Rita Stedner

"Nature's Fury" is one of the themes on our fifth grade reading anthology. Our class made projects for this theme.

Jessica Briggs made a poster about a tornado. She interviewed a family that ran into a tornado face to face. In August of 2004 on their way to the beach, everything changed in a minute. As they were driving they saw all the traffic going the other way. They looked up and saw three funnels, two small ones and one huge one. People were running and screaming scared to death. They turned right at the next street to escape the tornado. Trees were falling all over the roads. The funnels seemed to be following them causing damage behind them. Electric lines were swaying with the strong winds. The rain was pounding their car. They piled into an Army base and banged on the door. Someone opened the

door and pulled them inside away from the dangerous lighting and rain. They waited for the noise to die down. Finally, everything got quiet. They slowly went outside and realized it was over. There was damage everywhere. Roofs flew off the houses and trees were all over the place. The beach that was supposed to be their vacation spot was scattered with beach furniture and umbrellas. Traffic was jammed and people wanted to get out of the area. It took hours to drive a short distance. The family will never go back for a vacation to the beach again because of their scary experience.

Here is what Jessica Briggs said about her tornado project.

Q: Who helped you with it?

A: Her mother helped her.

Q: Why did you choose to do this?

A: Because she was more interested in tornadoes than the other topics.

Q: When did you do it?

A: In September, 2008.

Q: Where did you make it?

A: At home with family. She got her information about her project online.

Q: Why did you do that type of project?

A: It was easier to do than other projects.

Ms. Thomas  
Skyla Mayotte

Ms. Thomas' 5<sup>th</sup> grade class did a Thanksgiving project by making wreaths full of colorful paper leaves. First they wrote I am thankful for ... on the paper plate and colored them. They cut out the leaves. Next, they wrote what they were thankful for on 6 leaves and glued them on. Finally, they hung up there beautiful work to show it off.

Abby Zaykoski wrote My Home, My Health, My Pets, My Family, My Friends, and My Education.

Luke Johnson wrote Family, Food, Pets, Peace, Friends, and a Good Life.

Jessica Briggs wrote School, Food, Family, House, Health, and her Friends.

Fire Prevention Program

Juliana Waclawski & Skyla Mayotte

October 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> was fire prevention week. October 3<sup>rd</sup> was the program for fire prevention. The children watched a movie starring Sparky the dog. He was teaching us about E.D.I.T.H (Exit Drills in the Home) and how to make a fire safety plan for your family. Then 3 firefighters came out and another one explained what they had to put on and what order they put them on in. They explained to get low if the smoke is up in the air. Then they walked around in their uniforms and talked to the students so they could hear what they sound like if there was a fire. Then they went back up onto the stage and took all the safety clothes off. Then, Ember, the fire dog, and 5 firefighters took a picture with 4 students from Ms. Thomas' class (Skyla Mayotte, Jaime Saldana, Sarah Rinehamer, and Ryan Bobis). Then, they said good bye.

Meet the Band  
Alyssi Petroski

Meet the band is a program for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who want to join the band. Mr. Stranski the owner of Country Music talked about music and how it's an international language. He also taught us how to put notes into beats. The first instrument he showed us was the flute. The flute used to be made out of wood, but now it made out of metal. The 2<sup>nd</sup> instrument was the clarinet. The clarinet has a reed that makes the sound. The next instrument was the saxophone. It plays jazz, rock, and is featured in the marching band. The saxophone is made out of brass but, it is a wood wind instrument because it has a reed. Then he showed us the trumpet. The trumpet is in the brass section because it has valves . Next was the trombone. It has a sliding valve so it's in the brass section. Mr. Bunnell showed us the drums and bells. Meet the band was interesting and fun!

Chorus  
Alexis Seery, Alexis Selli & Morgan Mislitski

There will be many songs in this year's winter chorus concert and to find out what they will be, you'll have to come to the concert. The concert will be held in the high school auditorium at 6:30 p.m. on December

12th. Each chorus practice is held after school, 4<sup>th</sup> grade practices are held after school on Monday until 4:00. 5<sup>th</sup> grade practices are held after school on Tuesdays until 4:00. If you are a 5<sup>th</sup> grade chorus member, you will be able to participate in one or two chorus field trips in December. If you are not in the chorus now you might want to think about joining.

Favorite songs this year are:

1. Hip Hop Reindeer
2. In the Spirit
3. When the Lights All Shine

### Variety Show

Alexis Selli & Morgan Mislitski

The variety show was awesome this year. There were about 40 acts in the show. We didn't know that GNA had so much talent! On November 10<sup>th</sup> there were auditions and many acts were cut. On November 21<sup>st</sup> people in the audience enjoyed the show. Some of the performers were: Samantha Russin, Kelsey Novak, Alexis Cardone, Alexis Selli, Amber Grohowski, Morgan Mislitski, Taylor Brown, and Zachary Cardone.

One of the cast members was Mrs. Bunnell, and she said that "it is fun to see the excitement and it is nice to show off the talent and provide students with the opportunity to perform". Many of the performers were nervous because this was their first time on stage. Some performers were not nervous because they performed on the stage in the past. Everyone enjoyed Samantha Russin's and Kelsey Novak's comedy act. Zachary Cardone played a patriotic song on the piano. Lisa Radziak sang "Dance with Me Tonight". The country singers caused many in the audience to slap their knees and stomp their feet. We all had a great time performing and watching the variety show. See you next year.

### "Spring Is In the Air"

Savanna Kalinowski entered a poetry contest last school year which was being

judged by The America Library of Poetry based in Houlton, ME. It was a student poetry contest that ran throughout the country. She received the entry form from Mrs.

Lach. Although she did not win the contest, her poem was chosen to be published in their book called Brilliance which is a poetry collection that they publish every year. They state that out of all their entries they only publish 20% of the entries they receive which is quite an honor for Savanna. The following is her poem as it has been published.

"Spring Is In the Air"  
by Savanna Kalinowski

Snakes rattling, a whipping ball  
Grass growing very tall  
Kids rolling down the hill  
Good smells coming from the grill  
Kids singing and having fun  
So many things to do in the sun  
Give two hip-hip hoorays  
For the longer days  
Spring is finally here  
So give a big cheer.

Savanna is currently in the 4th grade in Mrs. Kalie's class. Congratulations!