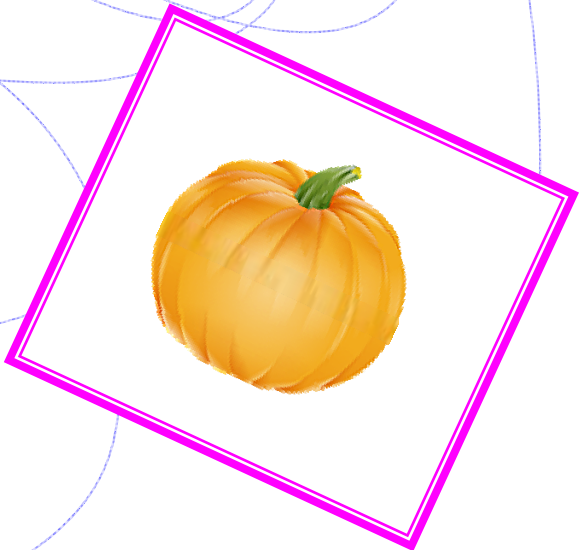


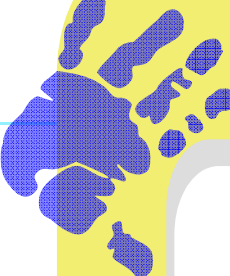

\*October 31st: Classroom Halloween parties / parade begins at 1:20-please do not arrive before 1:00  
\*Change in lunch menu for October 12th: Ham and Cheese Sandwich  
Chicken Noodle Soup, Pineapple, Jello, Crackers

# Genoa Elementary School October Newsletter



\*October 7th: No School  
\*October 10th: No School  
\*October 28th: 4th grade field trip





## Hello From the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Hallway!!

The fifth grade is moving right along in the first quarter. It is hard to believe it is almost over. The students all went to the Threshing Bee on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Students learned about old farm equipment and how steam engines of long ago worked with simple mechanics. Open house was a success, thanks to all the people who volunteered their time and efforts. It was greatly appreciated. The students also went to Russell Woods to learn about nature and abiotic and biotic things in our ecosystem. In math the students are multiplying one and two digit numbers. Keep practicing those facts. The students reviewed the states and map skills, including using the Compass Rose in Social Studies. In language arts, the students have learned about the author's purpose and different types of sentences. Fifth graders loved owl day that included reading about owls, writing about owls and working with owl pellets.

The weather is turning cold already, so please remember those coats. The temperatures vary from day to day, so please be prepared a sweatshirt may not be enough.

### Ben Reams-5th Grade Student of the Month

Here are my favorite things to do. My favorite sport is basketball. I play it all the time. I live with my mom, dad and little brother. I have 2 pugs and 4 frogs. With my free time I like to go outside. My favorite book is Middle School and my favorite movie is Despicable Me. My favorite show is The Amazing World of Gumball.

October 28th: 4th grade  
field trip to Midway Village



## From the 4th Grade Team

We were so happy to meet many of you at the Genoa Elementary School Open House. Thanks to all of you who donated various items and supplies to our classrooms! We really appreciate it!

An important change in 4<sup>th</sup> grade is that students will be given grades. All homework assignments and tests should be written in your child's agenda book for each night. Please make sure your child faithfully uses his/her agenda book and that you check it and sign it every night. It is also a good communication tool between home and school.

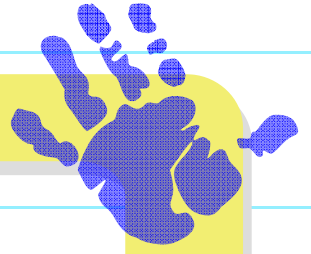
Our first field trip will be to Midway Village Museum in Rockford on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. More information and permission slips will be coming home soon!

Teachers will be scheduling a time with you for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Parent-Teacher Conferences. Some teachers may have dates available after school prior to November 3<sup>rd</sup> if those times are more convenient for you. If you didn't sign up for conferences at Open House, your child's teacher will send a request form home soon.

As the weather begins to cool down, please remember to send your child to school with a coat.

### Franco Raimondi-4th Grade Student of the Month

The people in my family are, my sister Anna, mom and dad. Things I like to do are play video games in the dark, eat and sleep. Most of the time I am playing video games. Every once in a while I will play with my 3 cats. I am definitely not a dog person. My best friend is Lorenzo Diaz. He is the best friend you could have.



Upcoming Events for GES Students

Friday, October 7th: No school (Teacher Institute Day)

Monday, October 10th: No school, Columbus Day

Friday, October 28th: 4th grade field trip to Midway Village

Monday, October 31st: Classroom Halloween parties, begin at 1:30, parade begins at 1:20, please do not arrive before 1:00pm

*Lunch and Breakfast Prices for Genoa Elementary School:*

Full pay: \$2.15

Reduced: \$ .40

Milk: \$ .35

*Lunch Menu Change for Wednesday October 12th:*

Ham and Cheese Sandwich

Chicken Noodle Soup, Cracker

Jello, Pineapple

## From the Principal's Desk

GES has started the year in fantastic fashion. We have added a new component to our Rtl program this year entitled, "Walk to Intervention". For a half hour each day, every student is involved in an intervention that is designed to either support an academic weakness or enhance strength. Three days each week, the focus is on reading where students are engaged in research based programs either in phonics or reading strategies. Our highest level readers participate in a Literature Circle or other enrichment activities. Math and writing occupy one day each week. For math, students are grouped according to need based on core areas such as number sense, algebra, measurement, fractions or problem solving. We also differentiate for our highest level math students. Intervention materials from *Envisions* are used to support math. Finally, for writing, students receive extra time with their homeroom teachers to focus on writing projects or work on Extended Response strategies for ISAT. In terms of structure, every teacher in the building is working with a group during Wtl including PE and Music. Students were placed into groups using various data sources such as AIMSweb, ISAT, and MAP testing. Teacher recommendations were also used. Wtl has been a huge undertaking that will hopefully pay great dividends for our students in terms of academic growth.

I would also like to congratulate the student's of the month for October, Franco Raimondi and Ben Reams.



## Book Picks

### ■ *A Dog's Life*

What does a stray dog think about? Ann Martin's story is told from the viewpoint of a dog named Squirrel. As a puppy, he became separated from his mother. Now he must search for a permanent home—while avoiding many dangers along the way.



### ■ *10 Explorers Who Changed the World*

The focus is on adventure in this book by Clive Gifford. Cartoon illustrations accompany biographies of well-known explorers like Christopher Columbus, Ferdinand Magellan, and others. (Also available in Spanish.)



### ■ *The Grand Plan to Fix Everything*

Moving to India puts 11-year-old Dini one giant step closer to meeting her movie idol Dolly Singh. But when Dolly quits acting, Dini must make a plan to convince her to return to filmmaking. A fun blend of humor and culture by Uma Krishnaswami.

### ■ *Jacob Wonderbar and the Cosmic Space Kapow*

Jacob's knack for finding trouble on Earth is nothing compared to what happens when he and his buddies go into space. They get chased by pirates, are stranded on strange worlds, and may have caused a huge explosion. Humorous science fiction by Nathan Bransford.



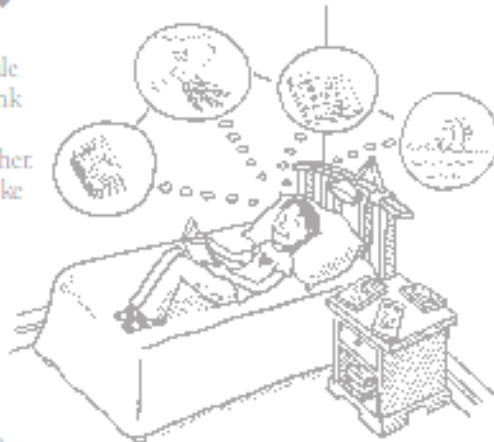
Genoa Elementary School  
Mrs. Leahy, Reading Specialist

## Think while you read

Good readers connect what they already know with what they read. While your child enjoys a story, she might think about her own life, another book, or what's happening in the world around her. Ask questions like these to help her make connections and improve her reading comprehension skills.

**How does the story remind you of your life?** Your youngster can use her experiences to understand a book. For example, *Ella Enchanted* (Gail Carson Levine) might make her think of a time she had to do something she didn't enjoy. Did she feel like Ella, who is under a magic spell that makes her obedient at all times? Ask your child to share or write down her personal connections.

**How is this story like another?** Perhaps a book's plot or theme reminds your youngster of a story she has read before. Comparing two books, like *The Water Horse* (Dick King-Smith) and *Aquamarine* (Alice Hoffman), can help her understand them more deeply. She might point out that both are fantasy tales about legendary water creatures. Then,



encourage her to take her thinking a step further and figure out the common themes (survival, friendship).

**How is the story related to real-world issues?** When your child reads a book that addresses a topic (civil rights), suggest that she focus on how the story is relevant today. For example, the characters in *Remember Little Rock* (Paul Robert Walker) and *Flygirl* (Sherri L. Smith) experience discrimination. Your youngster might think about people in today's world who are treated unfairly, or how school rules help protect everyone's rights. ¶

## Keep reading front and center

As your youngster eases into the new school year, here are some ways that he can make reading a priority:

- Have him write down titles of books he'd like to read. (Friends and teachers can offer recommendations.) He might collect the titles in a notebook, on a whiteboard, or on the computer.
- Encourage your child to hang around with friends who love books. They can read together in their spare time.
- Remind him to use his planner or calendar. In addition to keeping track of assignments and tests, suggest that he schedule time to visit the library and to read on his own every night. ¶



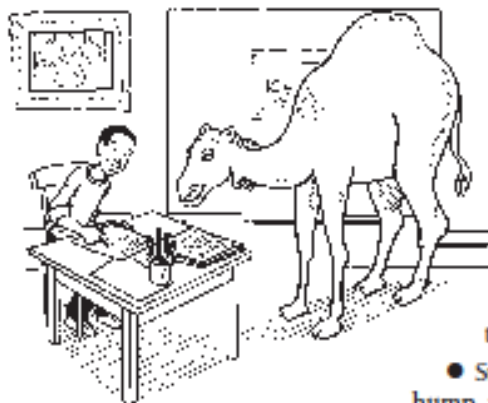
# Beginnings and endings

The way your child begins and ends a writing assignment can make a big difference in his finished product. Help him create a good first—and last—impression with these suggestions.

## Attention-grabbing introductions

A powerful beginning pulls the reader in. Your youngster might:

- Kick off with a question. "Did you ever wonder why camels have humps?"
- Use an interesting fact. "Camels can close their noses to block out sand."



- Set a scene. "A line of camels marches across the desert. The air is dry and hot, and there's no water in sight."

## Memorable conclusions

The ending should wrap things up in a way the reader will remember. A good conclusion shows how all the information in a paper fits together. Here are some possibilities:

- Summarize the main points. "Its large hump, unusual nose, and big feet make the camel the best transportation through the desert."
- Echo the introduction. "A camel isn't just interesting to look at. Its unique features help people travel in a hot, dry climate."
- Close with instructions. "If you visit the desert, take a ride on a camel. He may look funny, but his hump, nose, and feet will get you where you need to go."



## Make a list, write a poem

Your child can learn to describe a topic thoroughly by writing a "list poem." It's just what it sounds like: a list of words and phrases that go together to make a poem.

First, have your youngster pick a person, an animal, a place, or a thing for the title of her poem ("My Cat," "The Library," "A Rainy Day"). Next, she can brainstorm interesting words and phrases that describe the title and list them underneath. Encourage her to pick each word carefully. Finally, she might wrap up her poem with the title as the last line.

*Example:*

A Rainy Day  
Drips, drops, sprinkles  
Gray sky  
Dark clouds  
Lightning flashes  
Thunder booms  
Clouds burst open  
A rainy day.



**Variation:** Think of a topic together, and take turns adding lines to your poem.

### OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children's reading, writing, and language skills.

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## Parent 2 Parent

### Speaking of reading...

Last year my son started reading more advanced books in school. I recognized some of the titles from when I was a child, and others were new to me.

I leafed through one that he was finished with, and I got hooked! What I didn't realize was that reading the same book as Jonas would give us something new to talk about. We discussed our favorite characters and the best parts of the story.

Now we try to read a book together about once a month. We take turns picking a title, and then we check out two copies from the library. When we're both finished, we sit at the kitchen table with a snack and talk about the story. Sometimes we find discussion questions online, usually on the book publisher's website. Since we started this tradition, Jonas reads more, and our conversations have become more interesting!



## A balancing act

**Q** My daughter likes to spend time online reading blogs and writing messages to friends. Does this count as reading and writing?

**A** All types of reading and writing have benefits, whether your youngster does them electronically or with print. Checking out the latest blog posts introduces new ideas while building comprehension and vocabulary skills. Writing messages to friends strengthens communication skills.

Help your daughter become a well-rounded reader and writer by setting limits on screen time (TV,

computer, and video games). Encourage her to balance online with print activities by providing newspapers and magazines and playing writing games like Hangman or Mad Libs as a family.

When your child does go online, be sure she visits safe, appropriate sites. Her school website might contain educational links, or you can ask her teacher for suggestions.

