

Sylvio J. Gilbert Elementary School

Monthly Newsletter



Principal's Pen

December 7, 2020

Dear Gilbert Family and Friends,

It is hard to believe that it is already December! The first trimester has flown by, and winter break is approaching. December 22nd is our last day before school vacation. We will be returning to school on January 4th, 2021.

Remote learning is so important to the success of your child this year. If grades 1 – 6 students are only participating on the days that they are in-person or meeting with a teacher, then they are missing out on 60% of their education this year. Please make sure your child is logging into SeeSaw or Google classroom on the days that they are not in-person.

Snow weather is here so please remind your child that they need to dress appropriately. The K – 2 students need to wear boots and snow pants if they want to play on the snow during recess. The 3 – 6 students need to wear boots to play in the snow. All students need coats, hats, and gloves/mittens to play outside in the cold. Per the student handbook, we go outside unless the wind chill is less than 10 degrees.

If you have any changes to your address at any time during the school year, please let the office know immediately. It is important to also inform the office of changes to dismissal. A student cannot tell the office of changes to dismissal. You must call the office or send in a note with specifics. This is important to keep your student safe.

Finally, the Gilbert Elementary Staff would like to extend wishes for a restful winter break and Happy New Year to all of our Gilbert Friends and Families!!

Educationally Yours,

Sarah Landry



Happy Holidays to All Gilbert Families!

To say this year has been trying would be an understatement. It seems we have learned new vocabulary and new ways of schooling that we had not imagined. Even though the word COVID seems to be part of our everyday conversations, I am still putting hope in the word KINDNESS to outshine the darkness. Kindness is defined as a quality of being friendly, being generous and considerate. Being kind often requires courage and strength because it's a trait that comes from within. When my grammie was growing up, she did not have much (or as she would say, "We were dirt poor") but she would tell me she always had kindness to give. As December rounds the corner, I will continue to challenge myself and the students at Gilbert to be brave and courageous as they think about ways to be kind to everyone around them.

December also marks the time for our Gilbert students to start wearing winter gear. Although it has been unseasonably warm, the weather forecast looks cold for the rest of the month. All students need to have warm coats, hats and mittens/gloves when on the playground. Students from 2nd grade to 6th grade do not need to wear snow pants to be on the snow, but they do need boots. There are some hats and mittens available to students in the front office.

Now a news bulletin about remote learning! Please continue to remember remote learning does not equal NO learning. It just means the learning changes and how it is delivered. At this point, every child at Gilbert should understand how to get on to their laptops at home and how to join a live classroom meeting. If you or your child are still in the "I don't get it" bubble, please contact the school so we can help. We are collecting attendance data whether your child is learning in the building or at home. Students who consistently do not log on at home have been entered into "Mrs. Lakeman's Cohort Academy" where they will be given specific tasks to get them engaged in remote learning.

On a personal note, especially during this crazy year, I feel so fortunate to be part of a school community that works together as a family to provide enrichment and support for all of our children. I truly believe it takes a village to raise a child and our village is amazing!

Season's Greetings!

Mrs. Lakeman

Dean of Students at Gilbert School

626-2491 ext. 3659

If your child still has any book(s) checked out from the Gilbert Library from last year, could you please help them locate and return the book(s) to school so that he/she will have a clear record and be able to check out books once the library is able to start loaning books to students again.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 23-Jan.1 - **WINTER BREAK – NO SCHOOL (return to school on January 4, 2021)**
- January 6 - Professional Development for Teachers – students **DO NOT** need to check in
- January 18 - **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY – NO SCHOOL**
- February 3 - Professional Development for Teachers – students **DO NOT** need to check in
- Feb. 15-19 - **FEBRUARY BREAK – NO SCHOOL (return to school February 22, 2021)**
- March 3 - Professional Development for Teachers – students **DO NOT** need to check in
- March 19 - **WORKSHOP DAY – NO SCHOOL**



NEWS FROM THE NURSE

WELCOME DECEMBER

It is getting colder and the snow is starting to fly!! Please send children to school with coats, snow pants, boots, mittens and hats. I have a few extras but not enough for all. Children need to get outside and play with their friends. Please dress them appropriately so they can enjoy outside recesses.

Please remember to keep children home when sick. This is especially important this winter with the COVID-19 pandemic. Encourage frequent handwashing and please have your child wear a mask if in public.

Our fluoride clinic is scheduled for December 17 and 18 for all those who signed up in the beginning of the year.

Please remember to check heads for lice on Sunday nights. Remind children not to share hats and combs/brushes. Please encourage girls to wear their hair up.

Happy Holidays to all! Enjoy!

As always, please call with questions/concerns.

Emily Davis, MSN, RN
626-2491 ext. 3658

CONGRATULATIONS FOR BEING CHOSEN AS NOVEMBER'S CITIZEN OF THE MONTH:

Mrs. Loiko (Kindergarten)	Ryker Ives, Zander Taylor
Mrs. Mattice (Kindergarten)	Quincy Abrams, Braelynn McElmurry
Mrs. Cooper (Kindergarten)	Luca Jordan, Rina Racine
Ms. Marston (K/1)	Jeremiah Belanger, Leonidas Peaslee
Ms. Lettre (1st grade)	Riley Lessard, Hannah Lam
Mrs. Guthrie (2nd grade)	Annie Dow, Elliana Widdecomb
Mrs. Simonton (2nd grade)	Jericho Lewis, Cooper Alkurabi-Kerr
Mrs. Moore (3rd grade)	Teague Turner, Hayden Tracy
Ms. Sementelli (3rd grade)	Bailee Casoria-Cooper, Lachlan Gay
Mrs. Laliberte (4th grade)	Denise Dow, Gavin Perry
Ms. Libby (4th grade)	Mayla Mitchell, Justin Veilleux
Ms. Pottle (5th grade)	Reve Turner, Willow Horton
Mrs. Dow (5th grade)	Robert Bishop, Isaiah Stockmar
Mr. Meader (6th grade)	Lydia White, Saylor Tribou
Mr. Johnston (6th grade)	Aven Nicholas, Abigail Leger

Every month we will be spotlighting a different grade

December is Pre-K



What's happening in Pre K?

Hello! Even though this is not the year we all might have hoped for when it comes to a child's first experience with school, we think we have had a pretty great start! The classroom looks totally different and social distancing and mask wearing can be challenging enough for adults, but our little friends are taking it like champs and really doing a great job! We are proud of them and hope to make this a year that they can look back on with fond memories. It is certainly a year we won't soon forget!

This year the kids are learning the letters of the alphabet and the sounds they make using the Alpha Friends. Each week they learn a new letter through a song and movement. This program is called the Alpha Friends and the children seem to really enjoy it. Each letter or Alpha Friend has a song to go with it and we learn the sound the letter makes as well. So far we have learned Ss (Sammy Seal), Mm (Mimi Mouse), Rr (Reggie Rooster), Tt (Tiggy Tiger), Bb (Benny Bear), Nn (Nhytle Noodle), Hh (Hattie Horse) and Aa (Andy Apple). To practice these lessons further, we try to do a few worksheets a week working on either recognizing the letter and either coloring it or circling it, brainstorming words that start with that letter, playing a memory game with a bucket containing objects that start with the letter we are working on, tracing or writing the letter, and more!

Given the dynamics of the classroom we are doing more whole group activities such as cutting and pasting, writing or drawing to directions or music, a lot of fun little crafts and other activities. We might be wrong, but we think all the children are enjoying themselves and adjusting nicely to a very different program than it has been in the past.

Along with our many indoor activities, we make an effort to try and go outside every day, weather permitting. Please help us and your child by selecting appropriate outerwear for the changing temperatures. Even when getting dressed for outside, our friends are learning and growing. Independence is encouraged and we are working those fine motor skills by zipping our coats and pulling on mittens or gloves (if possible we strongly recommend mittens as they are warmer and much easier to put on all by ourselves). Our friends who can do many things independently are so proud and rightly so!

It is amazing to see the change in some of our friends already and look forward to the next couple of months to see what more we can accomplish!

The Pre K Team

Mrs. Mindy & Mrs. Kim (Room 8)

Ms. Sarah & Miss Chelsey (Room 7)

Miss Hayley & Mrs. G (Room 9)