

# Sylvio J. Gilbert Elementary School

## Monthly Newsletter



**Principal's Pen**

**January 11, 2021**

Dear Gilbert Family and Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a restful, safe, and fun break with your family! We are back to the business of school, and we want to remind everyone about the importance of continued engagement with the school all 5 days of the week. Gilbert teachers and staff are working incredibly hard to give you opportunities to learn both in-person and remotely every day. It is important that your child participate in those opportunities.

As we return to in-person/hybrid learning, please remember to follow all of our safety procedures, including: washing hands frequently/effectively, wearing a mask unless on a mask break, and notifying the school if you are feeling sick or have been exposed to COVID-19.

If you are considering being fully remote for your mode of learning, then you must contact Mrs. Landry immediately. It will involve a change in teacher and schedule, so it is not automatic nor fluid. We are making changes at the end of each trimester unless it is necessary for student success. Fully remote learning requires much more parent-directed or self-directed learning to be successful. Please let Mrs. Landry know if you would like to consider going fully remote.

We would like to encourage parents to contact the teacher with concerns that you may have about your student's success as soon as possible. Regular communication with the school lets our students know that we are all working together for their success. Please feel free to contact the office with any questions or concerns as well.

Educationally yours,

Sarah Landry  
Principal



## We Made it--January 2021!

This past year has been hard! Never would I ever have thought Christmas morning would be a virtual event with my family—it was different. There have been so many changes in the past year—wearing masks to school, doing remote learning, no singing while at school...OK let's stop right there. This was probably the hardest for me as I love to hum, or (if you know me well) burst out in song at any given moment. Usually schools are filled with song—singing the days of the week, singing in the hallways and little songs drifting through the air all day. The absence of song sums up 2020 for me—we learned new things, changed old things and endured hard things. But now enters 2021 with hopes of brighter days when we can recover from hard things.

Teachers are working so hard to teach and stay connected with Gilbert students whether they are in the building or at home. I know most parents are shuffling work while at the same time either encouraging students to do work at home or re-teaching virtual lessons from their teacher. For these hard things to work, we must work together; and although COVID-19 has brought changes to our world, schooling is something that can remain a constant--just different. If you need help encouraging your child to attend lessons posted by their teacher or help encouraging them to do work—please let me know and I will help.

Parents, let me also encourage you to have your child enjoy some of the lunches Miss Bobbi is providing. She is going out of her way to provide delicious meals like meatball subs or delicious salads for our Gilbert students. Instead of packing a lunch, it might give you a few extra minutes in your day. Also, think about having your child take a lunch home for remote days. A mom mentioned to me before break what a "time saver" it was to take the items out of the take home lunch bags and put them in a reachable spot for her child. She also mentioned how it has helped with her grocery bill and she said the lunches are free—which they are! Please take advantage of any ways to help during these "different/hard" times.

As we tiptoe into 2021, I am amazed at everything teachers and parents have done and fully believe with high hopes if we work together, we will recover and be able to sing again! Here I go....

*"Did you think I'd crumble? Did you think I'd lie down and die? Oh no, not I, I will survive as long as I know how to love I know I'll stay alive—WE WILL SURVIVE!"*

--Gloria Gaynor

Happy January Gilbert Families!

Mrs. Lakeman  
Dean of Students 626-2491 ext. 3659

# New Counseling Resource for Gilbert School

We are happy to introduce Kayla Libby of Kennebec Behavioral Health. Ms. Libby is based in our building and can see students here or via telehealth. This allows our students and their families to receive counseling services without losing time for transportation away from the building.

If you would like to know more about the services Ms. Libby can offer, please contact Mrs. Michaud, our School Counselor, [mmichaud@augustaschools.org](mailto:mmichaud@augustaschools.org) at 626-2491 extension 3629 or Mrs. Cropley, our school LCPC, at [vicki.cropley@augustaschools.org](mailto:vicki.cropley@augustaschools.org)

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Hey Parents!

My name is Kayla Libby. I just joined the team at Gilbert, as their new, full-time, licensed clinical social worker. Although I am at the school and will be collaborating with staff ongoing, I technically work for Kennebec Behavioral Health. I graduated from the University of New England with my Master's Degree in Social Work in August 2020 and my Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Husson University in 2014. I grew up on a pig farm in the small town of Exeter, Maine and over the years have made my way to the Augusta area. I absolutely love working with kids, especially at the elementary level! I have been working in the social work field for almost seven years. During this time, I worked as a children's case manager, therapeutic foster care case manager for kids, and a BHP. I have worked for Kennebec Behavioral Health since 2018, where I was a case manager. I look forward to meeting and working with you and your children!

Best,

Kayla



## NEWS FROM THE NURSE

### WELCOME JANUARY

I hope that you all had a relaxing and joyful holiday!

Snowy days are ahead. Please send kids with outside clothing. It is cold, but snow is so much fun to play in when dressed with coat, snow pants, boots, mittens and hat.

Our fluoride clinic has been rescheduled and will be taking place on January 28/29.

As always, please call with any questions or concerns.

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

January 18	- MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY – NO SCHOOL
January 19	- COHORT B STUDENTS RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING
January 21	- COHORT A STUDENTS RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING
February 3	- Professional Development for Teachers – students <b>DO NOT</b> need to check in
Feb. 15-19	- <b>FEBRUARY BREAK – NO SCHOOL</b> (return to school February 22, 2021)
March 3	- Professional Development for Teachers – students <b>DO NOT</b> need to check in
March 19	- <b>WORKSHOP DAY – NO SCHOOL</b>
April 16-23	- <b>APRIL VACATION – NO SCHOOL</b> (return to school April 26, 2021)

**Every month we will be spotlighting a different grade  
January is Kindergarten!**

### What's happening in Kindergarten?

This year has clearly been one unlike any other. Whether students are remote learning or in a hybrid model, experiences in Kindergarten are not how we would like them to be. Students in a hybrid model have been attending in-person instruction for 4 days a week, with a remote learning day on Wednesday's. Our focus to start the school year was to establish relationships with our students face to face, or via google meets, as our remote Kindergarten teacher has been doing all year.

Students have been practicing their counting and number writing in math. Literacy has consisted of learning letter names, their sounds and identifying beginning sounds of words. Some students are beginning to write letters/words in their writing to express themselves. We are all very excited about the learning we have been doing this year given the circumstances we have been facing. Just a reminder that students who do not attend at least 1 google meets and/or submit work onto Seesaw during our remote learning day will be marked as "absent" for that day.

We are so proud of our students and all of the learning that has been happening this year. Thank you for sharing your children with us!

Mrs. Cooper

Mrs. Loiko

Miss Marston

Mrs. Mattice

Dear Parents/Students,

K-6 bowling club for the students in Augusta begins January 20, 2021. We meet on Wednesdays after school starting at approx. 3:30 PM at 1-7-10 Bowling Center. We will bowl for 11 weeks. Students will bowl 2 strings each afternoon. Shoes will be provided free of charge.

In order for you to participate, **please return \$35.00 for the 11 week session and the following form to the 1-7-10 center on January 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Please make checks payable to 1-7-10**

Mark the following dates on your calendars: 10 week session, 1 week banquet total 11 weeks.

January	20 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup>
February	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup>
March	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> , 31 <sup>st</sup>
April	7 <sup>th</sup>

The program runs for 11 consecutive weeks, however if there is a snow day or early release due to bad weather the program is cancelled for that day. We will add any cancelled weeks at the end.

School \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number where parent can be reached \_\_\_\_\_

Any medical history we should know about \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions you can contact me at [rjustice@augustaschools.org](mailto:rjustice@augustaschools.org)

Thank You  
Mrs. Rici Justice