

# Gilbert Grizzly News

**Gilbert Elementary—Our Mission is to help all students become successful learners. Bell to Bell instruction; every teacher, every classroom, every day.**

## Message from the Principal

Gilbert Families came to conferences!!!! Thank you for supporting your children and the school by attending. Conference week was a very busy time for staff and families and 95 % of our students had a family member come to a fall conference. This tells me that our families care deeply about the success of their children. Together the school and the family help students succeed.

At conference time you learned about ways to help your child do well at school. You learned again that you *can* help with home work. You can investigate to see if there is some each evening. If there is, setting aside time and insisting that the work be done is what you need to do. Do not negotiate with your children about this. Take a firm stand. Helping your child complete their work does not mean you do the work but you can encourage and support by sitting with them for a little while and talking about what they are doing. You can help them get that completed work back in to their school bag. You can sign off on reading logs or papers that the teacher has asked for.

What if there is no homework to do ? As a parent or guardian, don't hesitate to ask your child to do something when there is nothing specific in that bag! Reading every evening is a wonderful boost for all children. You may choose to read to them, with them, or let them read alone. Take time to ask about what they read. Have them tell you something about it. Reading and understanding what they read is very important. Not enough time in your busy schedule? Please make the effort and make it a routine....a little is better than none and they will benefit greatly.

School is your child's job. School is work and just like soccer or basketball or any sport, it takes lots of practice to get the skills down that they need to succeed. Homework is part of school. Most children would rather play than do homework. Yet, the work that comes home is practicing the new tools they have learned that week. It keeps them moving forward in their grade so they can move on ready to take up the challenges of the next year. Children are like adults. Play is usually something we too would choose over work.....but work pays the bills and keeps us going. The better our children do in school, the more choices they will have about what kind of work they get to do when they leave school for the adult working world.

## Quote for Parents

"It's simple. Don't fight with your kids over nasty looks if they are actually doing what you want! Just say, "I know you don't like this, but thanks for doing it for me anyway. I love you."



## Important Calendar Dates:

Nov—	Lockdown Drill from playground
Nov 25	Early Dismissal 12:00 Noon
Nov 26-27	Thanksgiving Break
Dec 8	PTA- meeting—Dominoes Pizza night---discount coupons for your family
Dec 11	Student of the month luncheon- invitation only
Dec 16	K thru 2nd grades Holiday Program 2:00PM & 6:30 pm
Dec 17	3rd thru 5th grade Holiday Program 2:00PM & 6:30PM
Dec 24-Jan 4	Christmas Break
Jan 4-22	3rd & 5th grade District Writing Assessment
Jan 4-29	DIBELs testing ---all grades
Jan 12	PTA- meeting @ Southeast Community Center---Free Dominos Pizza @ this meeting for parents
Jan	Skating Party @ Skateland ----for students and their families 6:30 pm

## Students of the Month

Congratulations to our students selected for their outstanding performance in their classrooms! We have listed for you the students for October..

We are celebrating their success with a special luncheon with their families the second Friday of the month. Congratulations students and your families!

### **Teacher**

Johnson  
Moore  
Schoonhoven  
Gann  
Mayer  
Scott  
Cairns  
Eby  
McCoy  
Davey  
Lee  
Roscher  
Baum  
Blondin  
Mundell  
Allen  
Radabaugh  
Clark  
Briffett  
Fartin  
Kirk  
Martinson  
Morris  
Wickstrom

### **Academic**

Likhi Suarez  
Lincoln Whiting  
Isabella Herrera  
Boston Lynch  
Jace Anderson  
Eli Grange  
Skylar Colton  
Destini Polina  
Joshua Korevaar-Dorsey  
Jane Eichwald  
Eduardo Serrano  
Ondrea Garza  
Shaye Fetzer  
Steven Perrault  
Anthony Tatro  
Itali Bautista  
Briceida Perez  
Erika Cabera-Aguilar  
Edgar Olivera  
Omar Perez  
Carl Foster  
Brandy Garcia  
Dylan Hartshorn  
Chase Odenbach

### **Character**

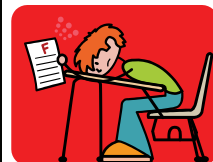
Arriana Hernandez  
Taylor Yockey  
Luis Ramirez  
Anastacia Almaguer  
Angel Garcia  
Ella Qunell  
Jaqueline Rodriguez  
Caleb Zimmerman  
Oscar Mesina  
Veronica Lenzi  
Noah Eneix  
Alex Perez  
Ethan Turner  
Brianna Cliett  
Luis Barrera  
Angel Diaz  
Crystal Garrido  
Erika Cabera-Aguilar  
Mason Morgan  
Omar Perez  
Hunter Waters  
Brandy Garcia  
Nathan Lambert  
Victoria Bailey-Babbit

### **Hardest Worker**

Juan Tapia  
Melissa Nava  
Oswaldo Martinez  
Diego Cisneros  
Anahi Garate  
Hannia Rodriguez  
Axel Diaz  
Gabriel De Jesus  
Victoria Umberger  
Ana Sofia Hernandez  
David Limon  
Harlee Benner  
Edith Cervantes  
Joshua Hutson  
Skyler Henriquez  
Dusti Benner  
Ismael Rodriguez  
Erika Cabera-Aguilar  
Cesar Chacon  
Omar Perez  
Isaac Gutierrez  
Brandy Garcia  
David Diaz  
Marteen Carillo

### What Veterans Day Means To Me By-Ondrea Garza

Veteran's day makes me very proud and it sometimes makes me cry. It makes me cry because I think about all those soldiers who risk their lives to keep our freedom. Some soldiers get shot and die but some stay alive and keep fighting for our country. Terrorists from other countries try to kill Americans by bombing buildings or shooting frantically. Our Armed forces can't stop people from dieing. I thank our Veterans for fighting for our country. I give them all support!!



## Veterans Day Parade

We honored Veterans on Tuesday November 10<sup>th</sup> with a Veterans Day parade and gathering in the gym. We were able to thank our staff who have served: Edie Gann, Julie MacGregor, Jim Baker, David Radabaugh and Mrs. Bixler's husband Joe Bixler. In the audience was Emmee and Vicki Babbit's dad who is also a veteran. Thank you for all you have given for us !!!! Next year, we will enlarge our circle of honorees and request that more families attend this special event.

The "Grand Marshalls" for our parade were Gilbert dads, Sergeant Sean Barnes and Sergeant Kalen Dillinger who are currently serving in the military. Classrooms carried banners and marched behind the guests of honor. Mr. Gary Ross, longtime custodian at Gilbert, drove the "Grand Marshalls" in his patriotically decorated convertible. Gilbert music teacher Mr. Bill Kunze and 5<sup>th</sup> grade student Dillon Baker played the drums. Third graders read a poem and the entire student body sang patriotic songs. Their strong voices brought tears from many adults listening to them belt out "Proud to be an American". The sergeants stayed after the gathering to answer many questions from students about their service. The bright blue skies and cool windy weather made it an afternoon to remember for us all.

### **Who attends Gilbert Elementary?**

Have you given it any thought? We are really not a neighborhood school in the old sense of the word. Our students do not ALL live in and around Gilbert Elementary. In fact, we have students who attend from all over the school district. How and why does that happen? Well, there are more students who live on the East side of town, than there are on the West side of town. In the Yakima School District, we have schools fairly evenly located around the district. Gilbert is a west side school. So....we have students who are brought in from other areas of town. Most families prefer to have their children attend a school that is close to home which eliminates a bus ride and transportation issues. That just is not possible for everyone in our district. So at Gilbert we have students from many neighborhoods and I think that is fortunate in the long run. We are a diverse school community. Here is a quick look at our student population:

Total Students	457
By Grades	k-91, 1st-78, 2nd -73, 3rd—80, 4th—75, 5th—60
By gender	M-54% F- 46%
Ethnicity	American Indian or Alaskan Native – 4.1% Asian or Pacific Islander – 2.8% Black – 3% Hispanic – 48.1% White – 41.9%
Free and Reduced	76%

## ***PTA NEWS***

### **PTA ( Parent Teacher Association)---JOIN THE FUN !!!!**

Meetings-----second Tuesday each month @ 7:00pm.  
Spanish translation and child care---courtesy of PTA  
December 8<sup>th</sup> at Gilbert Library  
January 12<sup>th</sup> at South East Community Center

PTA has been very busy this fall. These dedicated parents and teachers make Gilbert a very FUN place to be with all the extras they sponsor and provide for us. Do you know that you do not have to pay dues to participate? Just call Joy Haughton or Florisa Sartain or the office (573-5800) and tell us you want to be involved. Everyone is welcome and every hand helps make the work easier. All are welcome.

These three big events are all wrapped up now and they were successful.....Cookie Dough/ Gift wrap sale, Harvest Carnival and Scholastic Book Fair ! Florisa Sartain chaired and ran the fundraiser and we have netted over nine thousand dollars from the sales. The Hamster Rumble was held on Tuesday at lunch time. What is a Hamster Rumble? The top sellers (82 students) in the fundraiser each earned a mechanical hamster. They look very real and when the battery is turned on, they move! The Rumble was a quick race on a small track in the gym and was lots of fun. Thank you Florisa !

The Harvest Carnival was the most attended event we have seen in years! Lots and lots of families, costumes, games, food and laughter came to the gym on October 30<sup>th</sup> ! There was a large group of moms and dads and staff who put in lots of time and energy to pull this off. We will do it again next year! Pictures are posted in the hallways of the costumed Gilbert crew.

The Scholastic Book Fair was short and sweet. Thank you to Mrs. Mayer, first grade teacher, and Mrs. Kessler, librarian, for making it all work and to Amy Miller, parent, who worked long hours at the book fair. The profits are taken in new books for our book swap room and the library. Thank you for your support. We will have a second one in the spring. It takes many parents to make this go. Teachers and school staff may not handle any PTA money during the school day.....just parents.....so when the spring fair is planned, please offer to work so we can be open more hours.

Holiday Program-----PTA will be preparing the cookies and punch for these two evening music programs. Are you interested in helping? Let us know and or come to the Dec.8<sup>th</sup> meeting and get in on the planning.

## Holiday Program

Save the dates: December 16 K,1,2 2:00pm and 6:30 pm  
December 17 3,4,5 2:00pm and 6:30 pm



This is our winter music program and it is wonderful!!!! All students may participate and all families are invited to come and see. Students dress up and perform the music they have learned in their music classroom under Mr. Kunze's direction. Arrive early for a chair! Everyone is welcome and the more the merrier. We will set up 400 chairs and that is all we have. Standing room after that is what we have. Cookies, punch and rice water are served before the concert.



### Staff News!

Welcome back full time!! Mrs. Briffett, Mrs. Cairns, and Mrs. Arambul!

We started the school year without you three and now you are all back..

# HOORAY!

*"The Yakima School District complies with federal and state laws, and applicable regulations regarding discrimination on the basis of any protected class as defined by law. This holds true for all district employment and opportunities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX compliance officer and ADA coordinator, Jill Kelleher, (509) 573-7066, 104 N. 4th Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902. Inquiries regarding Section 504 requirements may be directed to Lois Betzing, (509) 573-7018, 104 N. 4th Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902."*

*"Individuals with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to attend a program or activity sponsored by the Yakima School District should contact the district's compliance officer, Jill Kelleher, 104 N. 4th Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902, (509) 573-7066, 24 hours in advance of the event to inquire about reasonable accommodation. Inquires regarding compliance, and/or grievance procedures may also be directed to Jill Kelleher. **TTY/NexTalk services for the deaf or hard of hearing are available at these District phone numbers: 573-7191 and 573-2292.**"*