

# 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.

Dear Gilbert Families,

We are finally seeing some sunshine and it is looking a lot more like YAKIMA usually does Hooray! On February 19<sup>th</sup>, Gilbert students had a chance to shine ,too. A large group of students and their parents gathered at the Superintendent's office on Fourth Avenue at 7:30 in the morning. Gilbert had been asked to present something of interest to the central office staff monthly meeting. We were told to expect about ninety people. Mrs. Heather Lee , third grade teacher, agreed to coordinate and present a demonstration on Rocket Math. Mrs. Diana McCoy, second grade teacher assisted her.

Our Gilbert students \*\*\*sat up front at the meeting, that Tuesday morning. They were ready with pencils and their Rocket Math notebooks when Mrs. Lee said "ok...GO". Each of them worked on their own paper of math problems...for one minute....and when she said "stop" their pencils went back up in the air and they waited. They were poised and competent and made us all very , very proud ! After it was over, we went out for cocoa to celebrate their successful demonstration.

What is Rocket Math? Why would the district staff want to see it? Well, Rocket Math is a supplement to our basic math curriculum, Investigations, and it is new this year to YSD classrooms. Rocket Math is being used in every elementary school in the district and in all grades. What does the rocket have to do with math ? Each student marks their individual progress on a drawing of a rocket. The rocket has a ladder with rungs labeled A through Z. Each time a student passes a level, they color in that chunk on their rocket. By the time they finish A-Z....they have rocketed on to the next level. In many classrooms the students receive a certificate with a rocket on it when they finish level Z.

Rocket Math is about learning math facts in addition , subtraction, multiplication and division. Kinders start out learning how to write their numbers. The first graders are working on simple addition. We move up to division in fifth grade and because it is an individual program, we have some students in fourth grade already finished with division as well. Rocket Math is a timed test. Students do this work daily and they love it ! At the beginning of the school year, it took some classes close to half an hour to get the routine down. Today, most classrooms accomplish the work in ten minutes. If the class has it scheduled for one o'clock in the afternoon, you can not arrive at one fifteen and expect to see it.

*Investigations*, our basic math curriculum, is taught one hour each day in grades K through four. Fifth grade also has *Investigations* and this year has added some math originally taught in the sixth grades, to their fifth grade curriculum. Washington state math standards have increased at every grade level this year and thus we have added to our math program at every level. Rocket Math is a piece we have added and the one most of our students love !

You can help at home !!! Often parents say the math is just not like what they learned. I often hear..."I just don't get the way they teach it now". The Rocket Math is just what you learned ! Help your children practice their math facts at home. Ask for a sheet of problems to quiz them on . Make flashcards at home and use them each evening. It will help your students a lot !

\*\*\* Aerin Lee, Anahi Garate, Molly Benight, Ondrea Garza, Ricky Blakely, Angel Diaz, Jacob Sartain, Carlos Garrido, Jane Eichwald, Zac Benitez, Isaac Sartain, & Haley Sartain

**Important Calendar Dates:**

March 1	Kinder registration begins March first
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	PTA @ Gilbert 7:00 pm
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	Student of the Month lunch
March 16	D & A Taparoot theatre
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Pastries for Parents—
March 22-26	1A and 2A State Basketball Champs visit week of Conference Week
March 22-26	Noon dismissal each day
March 29-April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Spring Vacation

**If you go...****“Los niños bien educados”****\*WHAT:**

“Los niños bien educados,” a parenting program for immigrants

**\*WHEN:**

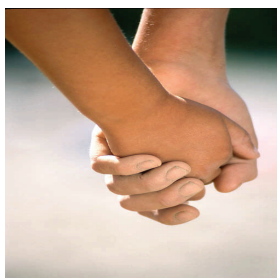
New classes begin March 8 in Yakima. Workshops will take place Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-9p.m. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

**\*WHERE:**

Adams Elementary School, 723 S. 8th Street

**\*INFORMATION:**

Call 509-575-8457, ext. 2915

**Students of the Month**

Congratulations to our students selected for their outstanding performance in their classrooms! We have listed for you the students for January. 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  
Fortin  
Kirk  
Martinson  
Morris  
Wickstrom

**Academic**

Benjamin Whitmer  
Cade Paullin  
Kyla Urquhart  
Julia Civello  
Jacob Sartain  
Hailee Zahler  
Grace Lenzi  
Anthony Detwiler  
Madison Rinker  
Sarah Estifanos  
Madison Pitharoulis  
Drew Kornegay  
Miranda Zamarripa  
Isaac Blanco  
Margarita Alvarado  
Kierra Pitharoulis  
Jalen Helland  
Yesenia Lepe  
Paul Perrault  
None  
Hunter Waters  
Natalie Pheil  
Justin Hoang  
Gustavo Bueno

**Character**

Evan Howes  
Diego Hernandez  
Mykel Davis  
Abrie Molano  
Gabriel Acosta  
Kory Chavez  
Bailey Wheeler  
Sydney Turner  
Nicholas Devlin  
Bryan Aguilar  
Ricardo Mercado  
Damien Pacheco  
Kamiakin Carter  
Alana Newborn  
Jessica Almaguer  
Victoria Basurto  
Sabino Rivera  
Yesenia Lepe  
Rafael Mercado  
None  
Carlos Garcia-Almaguer  
Natalie Pheil  
Justin Hoang  
Agustin Acevedo

**Hardest Worker**

Aldo Alexis Garcia Gonzles-  
Rainalea Kerrigan  
Carla Sanchez  
Mason Hancock  
Jelilah Morones  
Elyan Jimenez  
Leon Suarez  
Emely Tello  
Araceli Mendoza  
Alexandra Valdez  
Fernando Gordillo  
Andrea Garza  
Yisel Valdibia-Hernandez  
Tara Denton  
Lauren Yockey  
Sonia Salamanca  
Nolberto Gonzalez  
Yesenia Lepe  
Erandy Caro  
None  
Roy Hernandez  
Natalie Pheil  
Justin Hoang  
Victor Martinez

## PTA

Thank you to **Teresa Herrera and Steven Hererra** (Isabella's mom and dad) for arranging and planning last month's nutrition education presentation. We learned a lot about fast food and super size servings. The amount of fat and sugar in them is staggering.....1/2 +/- cup of sugar in a 20 ounce soda ?? Think twice before you give the choice of soda to your children.....water is far better for them and much less expensive. There are brochures on the PTA board in the foyer with more nutrition information. Take a look !!!

Please join us at Gilbert in the Library from 7-8pm on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Child care and translation services are free to all families; refreshments and door prizes, too. Join us Tuesday evening and help plan the upcoming Family Soc Hop and Potato Feed dinner. We encourage your participation in this fun group of parents and Gilbert staff who work to make school a fun and welcoming experience for all students and their families . JOIN in!

**My apologies** to anyone who came last week for PTA. I apologize for any inconvenience the cancellation may have caused.



## Roller Skating Party

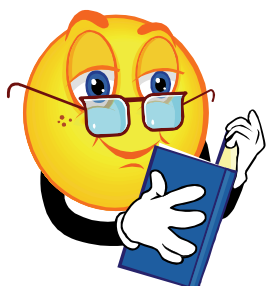


Thank you to our PTA for planning our Roller Skating Party in January! We had so much fun and no injuries or major crashes. This was an improvement over last year . We had almost 200 skaters on January 26<sup>th</sup> at Skateland. This year I was pleased to be joined by many moms and dads and more teachers, too. We had Mrs. Kessler , Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Kirk all skating around the rink. Whizzing by us all were Mr. Korhegay and Shana Kashitani. Amy and Marty Miller, Deb Korevar, Florisa Sartain, Caroline Brown and Joy Haughton all gave it their best. Lots of moms and dads and grandparents were on the sidelines cheering us all along. Thank you for coming and for supporting Gilbert Grizzlies !!!!

## Thank you to our VOLUNTEERS

**We need more volunteers!!!! Can you help out?**

Each school day you can find volunteers working in our school building. Some are parents of students. Some are parents of teachers. Some are grandparents and a few are not related to anyone in our building. They come and work with students in the classroom with reading and with math. They come and help in the Book Swap room every noon hour. They come and help in our special education rooms with a variety of skills. These are folks just like you and we could really use a few more individuals helping out in our classrooms. The need is great ! Call and visit with me if you think you can help. Some volunteers do not work with students directly. They help teachers with project preparations and other jobs. Some work can be done away from school and some needs to be done at school, but time is flexible. We are always looking for Spanish speaking volunteers to read to kiddos as well as English speaking volunteers. A very special thank you this month to Jeanette Hardin (grandmother to Gavin) and Megan Tweedy ( mom to Ellie). Jeanette and Megan spent seven days training and testing during our DIBELS assessment period.



## Student Column



The following is a sports report composed by a trio of first grade boys! Did you know that boys have historically lagged behind girls in writing skills in the primary grades? Research indicates that the topics that are usually offered for writing, are often not very interesting to primary grade boys. While writing about your favorite summer activity may appeal to little girls, boys often would rather write about something exciting with a little blood and gore and often words that primary teachers do not want to see in print. Sound familiar?

The following student work is a great example of how boys will be turned on when asked to write about something they really are interested in. This is a Super Bowl 44 report and they were as excited as could be to tell this story. Kyenn's aunt Donna was the scribe for the boys. Donna is a volunteer in Mrs. Scott's classroom one afternoon each week. Mrs. Scott suggested they do this following a morning of non stop conversation about Sunday's big game!

*There was a Super Bowl game on February 7, 2010. The two teams were the Colts vs. The Saints.*

*Peyton Manning is a great quarterback, but had a bad day at the Super Bowl. He threw a bad pass and it was intercepted by the Saints. The Saints player ran down the field and got a touchdown.*

*The Saints won the game. The score was 31 to 17. The city of New Orleans was very happy. They had a big party and parade for the Saints. The football game was awesome!*

**By: Eli Grange, Theo Miller, & Kyenn Peterson from Mrs Scott's first grade classroom**



## Academic Check-ups

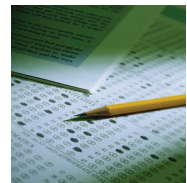
### DIBELS

Every student was tested at the end of January to see what their growth in reading has been. This is done three times each year. We use this assessment to help us evaluate progress with each of our students. It is a significant measure. Teachers use this along with their end of unit Theme tests to gauge progress. At conferences you will hear more about how your student has been doing. We have made some phone calls home to tell you if your child has been moved up or down since the test results have come out. We saw especially positive results in our fourth and fifth grade classrooms overall.

### DWA

#### District Writing Assessment 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades

We have received our DWA results. WE have improved over last year's scores. Our staff is working on coordinating our expectations in writing K-5<sup>th</sup> grades. You might expect that to be in place already...but it has not been until now. I am pleased to report that conversations are ongoing about aligning our grade level work in writing. Third and fourth grade have made a concerted effort these past two years to write more in their classrooms, focus their instruction and raise expectations. The individual scores are being mailed home for third and fifth grade students. Please review this information, parents and guardians.



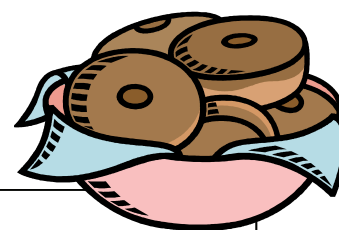
### Coming this spring

#### MSP ---measures of student progress---reading, writing, math and science

This is the new WASL...given in third, fourth and fifth grades. These will be administered on May 12, 13, 18, & 20. Unlike many schools across the state, our students will not take the test on computers. We will continue in paper and pencil mode.

Yakima Youth Awards were held on March 1, 2010 at the Capitol Theatre and the following Gilbert students were honored:

Karen Hernandez, Taylor Blackburn, Isaac Blanco, Edith Cervantes, Shaye Fetzer, Maria Garcia, Mackenzie Korevaar-Dorsey, Kaitlyn Luedke, Shelain Nunez, Felicity Padilla, Isaac Rivwera, Cameron Helland, Skyler Henriquez, Joshua Hutson, Ryker Johnson, Baylee Summers, Anthony Tatro, Ethan turner, Robert Walden, Daphne Zeman



## PASTRIES FOR PARENTS

**The Gilbert Staff is excited to host a special event, Pastries for Parents, for students and their parents. We invite you to come to our school Thursday, March 18, anytime between 7:45 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. There will be coffee, donuts and juice to enjoy as you read and share a book. It's our way of saying "thank-you" for the many ways you support your child's learning, especially by reading with them!**

**We hope to see all of you here. There will be a friendly competition to see which grade level has the best turn-out of parents. That grade will receive special recognition and a treat! Hope to see you on March 18<sup>th</sup>!**

*"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. 4<sup>th</sup> 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.**"*