



APRIL 2019

GILSON BROWN ELEMENTARY

Wow! It's April already. It seems like just a short time ago we welcomed everyone back to school in August. We are still very busy learning every day at Gilson Brown. We have more than 30 days to still make a positive difference in the lives of our students. We take this very seriously. Teachers are still teaching, expectations are still high, and students are still being presented with engaging lessons to continue to grow their brains.

Kindergarten Enrollment

Wednesday, April 24th is our Kindergarten Enrollment date. We will be enrolling between the hours of 3:30 pm and 7:00 pm. If you have a child entering kindergarten in the fall, please come to this event. If you have family or friends who have children entering kindergarten, please spread the word that the whole week is devoted to enrollment at the different elementary schools in the Alton School District. This is a great time to have your child see his/her school for the first time, meet some of our staff and get to know what we are all about. We look forward to meeting new families during enrollment.

Drills

During the month of April, we will be practicing our fire, lock down, and shelter in place drills. We continue to do this to be as prepared as possible in the event of an emergency. Two of these drills will be with actual firemen and policemen on campus. They look at our procedures and provide feedback to help us improve and let us know what we are doing well.

Growth Mindset

We are continuing with our Manta used in March that reads: I believe in the Power of Yet. I believe in setting goals. I know mistakes help me learn. I will use my determination and grit to help my brain grow.

In talking with the students, we will be focusing on understanding that there is a difference between not knowing and not knowing YET. Please encourage your child to talk to you about that idea. If they say they can't do something. Remind them, "You can't do it YET!" It really has a profound effect on your mindset! **MRS. CURVEY**



April showers bring blossoming Kindergarten students. We have come a long way this year, but we still have time to make a difference and increase our learning to show what we know!

During your evening reading time with your child, please remember it is important to read books multiple times to improve their fluency and expression. Ask your child questions about the story: who are the characters, what is the setting, how can you retell the story and sequence the events? Comprehension is as important as fluency. We are working on writing 2- 3 sentence stories using inventive spelling and our word wall words. Students will need to strive hard to increase their sight words so they can move up on our Karate sight words towards our Black Belt Goal (80).

At this point, it is important that your child can name, say the sound, and write all capital and lower-case letters. Naming and writing numbers 0-20 correctly is a goal we are striving to meet also. Don't forget to practice independently counting to 100 by both 1's and 10's.

April weather can bring many changes, so please be mindful of dressing your child appropriately and work on shoe tying. As always, your help at home is greatly appreciated. **KINDERGARTEN**



April
SHOWERS
BRING
May
FLOWERS

April brings showers of information in First Grade. We will explore the needs of plants and share ways to protect our planet as Earth Day approaches. First graders will learn about recycling, protecting nature, and keeping the Earth clean.

As readers, your child should be reading closely for information and detail. Their fluency reflects phrasing and expression to support comprehension and understanding. Keep encouraging your child to problem solve in math and read for longer periods of time. Growth comes from struggle, effort, and thought! **FIRST GRADE**