

GILSON BROWN

DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

1613 West Delmar Avenue/Godfrey, IL/ 618-463-2175

Mrs. JoAnne Curvey – Principal



This month marks the end of the first semester of school for our kindergarten and first graders. There has been a lot of learning and instruction over these few months. It's great to see the progress your child(ren) have been making. Something to remember is that not all students progress at the same rate and at the same time. It takes a lot of work both at home and at school to foster successful academic growth. Both home and school have to be a team in order to see that progress. Many of you attended the Parent/Teacher conferences in October which is one step to helping your child(ren) succeed. Another important aspect of success is the extent of the parents' involvement at home. Designating a homework time and place is essential for building good homework habits that will be necessary during their academic careers. Instilling the importance of hard work and dedication also helps in fostering that academic growth. When talking with your child(ren), don't forget to ask how they struggled and did they make mistakes. Your child(ren) know that accepting challenges and learning from mistakes are KEY to growing and learning. Please continue to help us create courageous learners who enjoy challenges and are not afraid of making a mistake because they know they will learn from the mistake. Instilling a Growth Mindset within your child is one of the greatest gifts you can give. This isn't only productive when they are students but through every aspect of life. It's a mindset that will propel your child(ren) into all future successes.

Community Christmas Box

In an effort to help those less fortunate in our community, Gilson Brown is participating in the Community Christmas Food Drive. We have a box for donations in our lobby. Items that can be sent in are:

- New toys for children for all ages
- new clothes, undergarments and socks
- Diapers, formula and baby essentials

- blankets and towels
- hats/scarves
- gloves/mittens
- personal hygiene items
- Non-perishable food items
- Household cleaning items/toilet paper/paper towels.

Donations can be sent in now through Wednesday, December 11, 2019. During the last week of collection, we will host a fun drive.

- Tuesday, December 3 is Two Can Tuesday
- Wednesday, December 4 is One can Wednesday
- Thursday, December 5 is Three Can Thursday (You can bring them to our music performance.)
- Friday, December 6 is Four Can Friday.
 - Doing this will certainly fill up our box with much needed canned goods!

Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

Good news! We not only met our goal of \$500 dollars, we surpassed it raising \$588. Thank you so much for your generosity toward our collection. The students learned to reach out and help others through your thoughtful giving. As a culminating activity, the students brought in enough money to securely tape me to the gym wall! So grateful to all of you for supporting our cause. Check me out on the district Facebook page.

5 Essentials Parent Survey

We would like to ask for your assistance in completing the Illinois 5 Essentials Parent Survey. The survey provides our schools with important feedback from your perspective as a parent. Students in 4th through 12th grades will also take a student survey beginning in December. The link below will allow you to access the survey. We would also like to share that our results are then compared to state averages. The University of Chicago administers the survey on behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education. The University has shared that responding "Strongly Agree" to a question (if you indeed do) instead of "Agree" has a higher impact potential when comparing our school averages to other schools across the state. We feel it is important to note this information as it was shared by the survey administrators. In other words, strong responses over moderate responses have a greater impact but again, only if you feel the school is deserving of that response. Thank you again for taking a few minutes to take the survey and provide your input. We are constantly striving to continuously improve our schools and your assistance in this effort is greatly appreciated!

SURVEY LINK:

<https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/>

Holiday Season

As we approach this holiday season, please know that the greatest gift you have is your child(ren). We are so honored that you entrust them to us every day. We hope your holidays are full of family, friends, and joy for each and everyone of you. Happy Holidays from your Gilson Brown family.

Christmas Concert

This year's Kindergarten and First Grade Christmas Concert will be held on Thursday, December 5th at Gilson Brown. The concert begins at 6:30 pm. Please have your child in the gym by 6:15 to get into place. Please come join us as we celebrate the season and the amazing effort of the students these last few months.

Kindergarten

It's a Wonderful Time of the Year in Kindergarten!

As our first semester comes to an end and we prepare for a new year, the kindergarten students will be working hard reading, writing sentences independently, finding ways to make 10, and practicing popcorn words, numbers and shapes.

We will be keeping up with the holiday spirit by making gingerbread houses, learning about the spirit of giving, and participating in other festive holiday activities.

Remember, as the colder weather is upon us, be sure to dress your child appropriately for school. Students will be going outside for recess whenever possible. Now is a great time to continue to practice buttoning and zipping coats, not to mention tying shoes. As always thank you for your support.

First Grade

It's an exciting time of year for first graders! 2nd quarter comes to a close this month. Our students have been growing and sharing their knowledge through a variety of ways.

By December, first graders are reading more independently and for longer periods of time. Encourage your child to read at home, especially over our winter break.

In math, first graders will be learning to build on their addition strategies and add with larger sums.

The month of December brings colder weather and growing excitement. We will be learning about signs of winter and holiday traditions in countries around the world as we get ready to celebrate the season with our families.

Upcoming Dates

December 5th – Gilson Brown Christmas Program – Gilson Brown, 6:30 p.m.

December 17th – School Board Meeting, AHS, 7:00 p.m.

December 20th – End of 1st Semester

December 21- January 5th – Christmas Break

January 6th-Teacher In-Service Day- No School for Students

January 7th – School Resumes for Students

