

# GILSON BROWN

## FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

1613 West Delmar Avenue/Godfrey, IL 62035/618-463-2175

Mrs. JoAnne Curvey – Principal



February has always seemed to me like a promise that spring is right around the corner. I sure hope she keeps her promise! Because it has been so cold, we have had many days of inside recess. In an effort to provide the students with more than just movie watching every day, we have a rotation for them to follow. One day of inside recess, a couple of classes will watch a movie while the other classes are on the stage engaging in building with Legos, coloring, drawing, and creating. Then, the next day, the classrooms that had previously watched the movie will then go to the stage and those who were previously on the stage will come watch the movie. If you or a family member/friend have any Legos, Lincoln Logs, Tinker Toys, or Duplo Blocks that you are looking to get rid of please consider donating to Gilson Brown. We will gladly use them during inside recess. We will begin this rotation the next time we have multiple days of inside recess.

### **5 essentials**

At this time, 10% of our families have taken the 5 Essential Survey sent to us by the state. If you haven't had the chance to do that, yet, please log on to [altonschools.org](http://altonschools.org) and click on the survey. Information from this survey does help guide our planning for the future of our school and your children. Thank you to those who have already been able to take the survey. In order for the survey to count, we need more parent participation. Please consider participating again this year.

### **Recess**

Parents, I cannot stress enough the importance of your children coming to school dressed prepared for outside recess. When the wind chill and temperature are above 25 degrees, we WILL go outside. Therefore, it is imperative that your child comes to school prepared for twenty minutes of outside recess. Please be sure that they leave the house with their winter coats, hats, gloves and scarves to help them enjoy twenty minutes of fresh air. A hoodie, under these conditions, just isn't enough to provide them the comfort and warmth that they will need outside for twenty minutes.

## **Growth Mindset**

Our February Growth Mindset Mantra is: A goal without a plan is just a wish. We will discuss the importance of setting goals and making a plan to reach those goals. This is potentially the most important part of growing a growth mindset. It's amazing how much a kindergarten or first grade student is able to understand about setting goals. Classroom teachers talk to the students about setting academic goals all the time. A great home goal is to try to improve the amount of time your child is able to sit with a book and read. This is called reading stamina. Try to increase the length of time they are able to sit on their own and read. Maybe chart the time increase on a bar graph so that they can see their improvement. Students, and adults, need to know that sometimes there are obstacles in the way of our goals. They must learn to overcome these obstacles, find new strategies to solve problems in order to strengthen their areas of weakness.

## **School Store Fundraiser**

Again this year, we are hosting the school store fundraiser. This is a great way to help your child's teacher provide extra supplies and fund exciting learning opportunities for the class. You will receive information home on Monday to help you understand just how easy this fundraising opportunity is. For participating, your child will receive an adorable slap bracelet that has a stuffed animal on it. Simply go on line, fill out the information asked, receive your code, write it on the return sheet and send the sheet to the office.

## **Buzzing in Procedures**

At Gilson Brown, it is extremely important to us to make sure all of our students and staff have a safe working and learning environment. To that end, when you come to school, for any reason, we will continue to ask you how we may help you before we buzz you into the building. We even do this when our Superintendent comes to visit in the school. We will also ask for ID as you check in the building for the first time or if we are not familiar with you. While this may cause some delay in you getting to your business at the school, we feel it will meet our goal of keeping everyone safe. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

## **Kindergarten News**

We are moving into the very busy month of February. We will begin by learning about Groundhog Day, shadows and hibernation. Next, we will be celebrating 100 days of school and being 100 days smarter! Then we will move on to Dental Health and Kindness during Valentine's week. The Alton School district does not hold Valentine's Day parties, but your child may bring in valentine cards to hand out. Look for a note with more information coming home soon. We will conclude the month by studying out past presidents (Washington, Lincoln) and reading multicultural books to learn more about famous African Americans.

You may have noticed that your child is bringing home books on her/her reading level. Please be sure they are reading them multiple times to improve fluency and expression. Please also use the comprehension cards in the bag. This will help your child increase their reading level. The kindergarteners are working hard on consonant/vowel/consonant words, reading and writing 2 sentence stories independently.

## **First Grade**

This month has many areas of study and focus! We will go back in history to learn about two great presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. February is Black History Month so we will also focus on important African Americans, both past and present, as well as read a variety of multicultural books. This month is also Dental Health Month, and Valentine's Day. The Alton School district does not hold Valentine's Day parties. But if your child would like to bring in Valentine cards, please send them to school by February 14<sup>th</sup> (beginning of the day) and make sure there is one for everyone in the class. We will be sending home a list of all the students in your class.

As our first graders develop into stronger readers, we are working on several comprehension strategies to help them understand more difficult text. We will continue to make connections to stories and will focus on visualizing and adding detail in their retelling of stories and recalling information. As always, reading on their own, each night, and for longer periods of time will help students make progress.

In math, we are deepening our knowledge of subtraction and working with larger numbers. We are also teaching first graders the relationship between addition and subtraction and comparing numbers. Vocabulary words your child needs to know are greater than, less than, fewer, and more.

Look for progress reports to come home Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Please sign after reading them and return to school.

## **Important Dates**

February 7 – Progress Reports Issued

February 14 – Happy Valentine's Day

February 17 – President's Day Holiday – No School

February 18 – School Board Meeting, AHS 7:00 pm

February 26 – Early Dismissal for Students – 12:40 pm