

# GILSON BROWN

## JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

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Mrs. JoAnne Curvey – Principal

### **Happy New Year**

I cannot believe that we are already midway through our school year and into the year 2020! I hope everyone had a peace filled holiday and that students are rested, ready to meet the second semester with more determination and grit, and willing to accept challenges and make mistakes from which they will learn a lot.

### **Growth Mindset**

In December, we talked a lot about accepting challenges! We Love A Challenge was our theme for the month. During morning meeting, we talked about different challenges and what we can do with a challenge. Teachers challenge the students every day in their classrooms and often discuss how to handle challenges. Students shared with me some things that they were afraid to try but really enjoyed once they tried it. One of the main shared experiences was learning to ride their bikes without training wheels. This month, our growth mindset mantra is Feedback is a Gift – Accept it. Stanford researcher, Carol Dwek talks about how we all grow from the feedback we receive throughout life. Rather than just saying, “Good Job reading.” It is better to be more specific as in: “I really like the way you sounded out the words that were difficult for you.” Or, “I see you are struggling reading that word, try to sound it out and see if that helps.” Feedback can be both specific praise and constructive in nature. Please consider the feedback you give your children to see if you can increase their growth. Ask your child about the character in the book I read to them who was having trouble accepting feedback. We discussed saying “Thank you” when we receive a compliment and “Ok” when someone gives us constructive feedback. Feedback helps us GROW!

### **Attendance**

Recently I saw a poster that read, “Attendance Matters”. I had to laugh because I thought, “Of course it does.” But, then I thought, maybe it is worth mentioning. So much instruction goes on in the classroom at this age that cannot be duplicated at home. Students may be able to fill out a worksheet or so when they come back to school after an absence, but, they miss important instruction that is necessary to understand the worksheet. No matter what, the teacher can never duplicate the instruction in a short make up period of time when a student returns to school that is missed when they are absent. Please be sure to have your child(ren) at school every day when possible. Illnesses, of course, happen, but, when there is no illness, send your child(ren) to school so that they do not fall behind in instruction. It’s unbelievable what they must learn, now, in kindergarten and first grade in comparison to what you as parents learned when you were in kindergarten and first grade. We are offering attendance incentives, banners and prizes for the classrooms with the highest attendance each week.

When your child is home sick, please call the office within 72 hours. We cannot excuse an illness without a doctor’s note after 72 hours. Also, remember, students must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.

## **Partners**

We are partners in your child(ren's) education. Please be sure to reach out to the teacher or to anyone else whose help you need to ensure academic, behavioral, social, and emotional success. You are the most important person on the team. As a parent/guardian, you are with the child more than we, and you know them better than we. Reach out...we are here for you!

## **Parent Pick up/Drop off**

It has been brought to my attention that some parents are pulling around cars in drop off and pick up lines. Please do not be tempted to do this. I realize that sometimes it takes a while for someone to get their student out of the car or back in and buckled, but when someone goes around a car, there is the potential to hit a student. Please help us ensure all of our students are safe by complying with this procedural request.

## **Kindergarten News:**

Happy New Year and welcome back! We are excited to pick up where we left off and continue to challenge ourselves with reading, writing and math. Our kindergarten students will be diving into reading and writing independently this semester. Mastering letters, sounds, and popcorn words will make this an easy transition. Please continue to work on these skills. We will be leaning about snowy weather, snowmen, polar animals, and Martin Luther King. Students will also be introduced to 3-D shapes and addition this month. We will be comparing, adding and grouping numbers.

Our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school is coming up soon. Please watch for a letter to come home from your teacher with 100<sup>th</sup> day information. Remember, this time of the year, the weather changes quickly, so make sure your child is bundled up with coats, gloves and hats. If warm enough and dry we will be playing outside.

## **First Grade:**

I hope you enjoyed the break with your families. First grade is ready for the New Year and the new season. We will be exploring the winter season, penguins, owls, and polar animals. Martin Luther King Jr. will be an important person in history about whom we will be reading & writing. Our math focus in January will be 2D shapes. We will continue with strengthening our math skills by learning strategies to help us subtract. Practicing math facts at home is a great way to help your child.

Check with your child to see if your child needs new crayons glue sticks, or other supplies we use daily.

Happy New Year!!!

## **Upcoming Dates:**

January 10 – Issue Report Cards

January 21 – School Board Meeting, AHS 7:00 pm

January 23 – Family Movie Night, Gilson Brown 5:30-7:00 pm

January 29 – Early Dismissal – 12:40 pm