

GILSON BROWN

OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

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

Mrs. JoAnne Curvey – Principal



Dear Families,

Parent Teacher Conferences

Please mark your calendars for October 24 and 25 for our 2019 P/T Conferences. Soon you will receive information on when you can call the school to set your appointment with your child's teacher. This is an important time for you to come and hear about your child's academic and behavior successes as well as learn which areas you may help strengthen at home.

Parent Teacher Group

Our PTG works very hard to raise money for the students at Gilson Brown. They are a small group of ladies and gentlemen who give of their time to make sure all students have opportunities for art, field trips, new playground equipment, the latest trends in the classroom and so much more. Please join the PTG and see what they are about. This SMALL number of people cannot continue to do the work alone. They need YOU. Watch your monthly calendar for dates and locations of upcoming events as well as opportunities to volunteer.

Community Partner

Representative Monica Bristow is hosting a Child Safety Seat Check. Please plan to attend this event on Thursday, October 3rd from 5 pm to 6:30 pm at Gilson Brown Elementary in the school parking lot. There will be a certified car seat technician who will ensure your car seats are safely installed. You have received a note home regarding this event. For more information please call 465.5900.

Attendance

Attendance is very important to your child's academic success. We will talk about this each month to show the students that attendance is important. I will tracking attendance each week. The class with the highest attendance will be rewarded. Last week's school average is a low 88.43%. It is our goal to get our attendance rate up. Please let us know how we can help you get your kids to school. When your child misses multiple school days, we will reach out to you with a phone call to let you know how many days they have missed, ask how we might be able to help you to try to keep your child from becoming truant. This week's kindergarten classroom winners, with a tied average attendance of 90%, are Mrs. Baumgartner's class and Mrs. Green's class. Our first grade classroom winner for highest attendance is Mrs. Mandrell's classroom with 91.43%. Congratulations to those classrooms and thank you, parents, for making school an important part of your child's day.

Kiss Picnic

Parents/Guardians are invited to our first ever KISS (**K**ids **I**nvite **S**omeone **S**pecial) Picnic. A note will come home soon regarding this event. It will be an event where you are invited to attend lunch with your child, picnic style. Following lunch you will be invited to take your child with you to the book fair to purchase from a large variety of age appropriate books. Our kindergarten KISS picnic will be held on Monday, October 21 and our first grade picnic will be held on Tuesday, October 22.

Gilson/West Family Night

West is hosting a family night in conjunction with their book fair on Wednesday, October 23rd in the evening. You will receive a note regarding this event with event details. Please mark your calendar to attend. There will be food, fun, and a special play our wonderful teachers. Both Gilson Brown and West students and family are invited.

Early Dismissal

We will have an early dismissal day on Thursday, October 31st. School will dismiss at 12:40 rather than 2:40 p.m. If your child rides a bus, he/she will arrive home two hours earlier than on a regular school day.

Growth Mindset Moment

As promised, each month, I will share with you that which I have learned about growth mindset. Remember last month, there are two kinds of mindsets. The first is a fixed mindset. That's where you believe that you're born with all of the intelligence that you are going to have, you can't make a difference in your learning, and you don't believe in trying, accepting challenges, and learning from mistakes. Quite the opposite describes someone with a Growth Mindset. This is the belief that you can change your intelligence that you have an effect on what you are able to do by making mistakes, accepting challenges, and using your determination and grit. (Your child knows all about this.)

This month we are going to be talking to the students about the fact that their "brain is like a muscle." We *can* grow our intelligence. This month, I will share with the students that it is important to exercise their brain like we exercise our muscles at the gym. The way we exercise our brain is through accepting challenges, making mistakes, and learning from our mistakes. Believe it or not, when we learn new things, our brains actually become denser and heavier, thus better equipped to learn new things.

So, while you are discussing school, ask your child what challenged them today. If they say nothing, tell them that you are disappointed that they didn't get to struggle. I always tell the students that I hope they struggle and make mistakes so that they can learn and make their brains stronger. Before they leave for school each morning, remind them to try hard, make mistakes, and use their determination and grit! Next month we will talk about being a valued member of our school community and how we accept everyone and help everyone be their very best.

AM Parent Drop Off

Recently I changed parent drop off procedures in the mornings. One of the main reasons for this change is so that I am able to greet all students as they come to school whether by a bus or by car. As with all things, there is an adjustment period. Please note that, when dropping off in the morning, pull to the **FRONT** of the school and drop off on the front sidewalk. Parent Pick UP will remain the same as before. Always go around the back of the building to the side and we will bring your student out to you. I will monitor the flow of this change and make a determination as to whether or not it is a good option for drop off. Thank you for following our new procedure.

Upcoming Dates

October 3rd – Car Seat Safety Seminar – 5:00-6:30 p.m.
October 7th – Mrs. Green & Mrs. Stevenson’s Field Trip
October 8th – Mrs. Baumgartner Kindergarten Field Trip
October 9th – Fall Pictures
October 9th – Ms. Broadway, Mrs. Cappel & Mrs. Slater’s Field Trip
October 11th-Heavely Hat Parade
October 14th – Columbus Day- No School
October 15th – School Board Meeting, AHS 7:00 p.m.
October 21st – BoBo’s Fundraiser Pickup at West – 3:30-6:00 p.m.
October 23rd – Kindergarten Classes going to Relleke Farms
October 23rd – Family Trivia for West/Gilson – at West, 5:30-7 p.m.
October 24th – Parent Teacher Conferences 1-7 p.m.- Report Cards Issued-No School
October 25th – Parent Teacher Conferences 8-1 p.m.-Report Cards Issued-No School
October 31st – Early Dismissal – 12:40 p.m.

Kindergarten News

October is going to be a fun-filled and busy month in Kindergarten. We just completed our ABC Boot Camp and now we will be using our letter sense knowledge to increase our understanding of letters, sounds, and words. We will be using our sight words to read emergent level books and write simple sentences.

In math, we will be learning to recognize numbers/ number words 0-10, find ways to make the numbers to 10, understand greater than, fewer than, equal to, and count to 30.

We will be also be discovering many facts about apples, fire safety, pumpkins, spiders, and bats. To follow up our classroom learning, we will take a trip to the fire station and the pumpkin farm. It will be so exciting to watch our Kindergarteners continue to learn and grow!

We are looking forward to meeting all of you at Parent-Teacher Conferences October 24-25. Make sure you make an appointment when the letters come out. See you then!

First Grade News

We have already learned so many things in first grade. We are building our sight word vocabulary as we use fluency in our reading. The stories have more words on a page and have more to retell and comprehend.

For Math in October, we will be learning math strategies for addition like drawing pictures, counting on, and mental math.

Our first graders will be exploring bats, spiders, pumpkins, and fire safety this month through reading, writing and math.

We are looking forward to meeting all of you at Parent-Teacher Conferences October 24-25. Make sure you make an appointment when the letters come out. We love talking about the wonderful things your children are doing! Thank you for supporting your child’s learning!