

February

News from Mrs. Curvey:

February Mindset Mantra

A goal without a plan is just a wish..... As you know, we have worked with your child(ren) all year on trying to change a mindset from “I can’t,” to “I can’t do it...‘Yet’” We are helping students understand that hard work and challenges are good things along with determination and grit because they will always help you as you struggle to learn or do something. This month, we will be talking about goals. We will set personal, classroom, and school wide goals. We will talk about different strategies to help students attain goals and the reason why goals are so important for intellectual growth. Mahatma Gandhi said, “Every worthwhile accomplishment, big or little, has its stages of drudgery and triumph; a beginning, a struggle, and a victory.” I want your child(ren) to know the feeling of victory following a struggle for there is no real learning taking place if you don’t have to work hard for what you are doing. Ask your child(ren) about making mistakes. See what they say about how mistakes help them.

Student Showcase

Wow, what a year we have been having! The learning that is going on at Gilson is unbelievable. To celebrate this hard work, determination and grit, we will be hosting our Student Showcase event. The Kindergarteners and 1st graders will perform from 6:00 pm. – 6:30 pm. with some social time until 7:00 pm. A date in May will be sent home soon.

Bus Behavior

Please take some time to remind your child(ren) about how they can show our three school rules on the bus....being responsible, respectful and safe. To show responsibility and respectfulness, and safety on the bus they should sit still, listen to the drive, and keep the bus clean stay seated until their bus stop, and to keep their feet out of the aisle. We want them to talk quietly so they don’t distract the driver. Thank you for helping me keep our buses safe and comfortable for all who ride them.



News from 1st Grade

This month has many areas of study and focus! We will go back in history to learn about the 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. The month also has the 100th Day of School, 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 (beginning of the day) and make sure there is one for everyone in the class. We will be sending home lists of all the students in your class.

Reading

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.

Math

Chapter 7 is short. We will work on comparing numbers. Students need to understand greater than and less than when comparing numbers and use the symbols $<$ and $>$. We also will continue to increase fact fluency with larger numbers.

Look for progress reports to come home Friday, February 2. Please sign after reading them and return to school.



News from Kindergarten

We just finished celebrating 100 days of school at the end of January! We are moving into the very busy month of February. We begin with learning about Groundhog day, shadows and hibernation. Next we move on to kindness during Valentine's week and dental health. Then we will study the Presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, and read multicultural books to learn more about famous African Americans for Black History month.

Reading

You may have noticed that your child is bringing home books on his/her reading level. Please make sure you are reading them multiple times to improve fluency and expression. The kindergarteners are working hard on consonant/vowel/consonant words, reading, and writing 2 sentence stories independently.

Math

Addition and Subtraction are our new Math skills during this month. The weekly note that comes home on Mondays is an excellent reference for things to practice and work on at home. As always, your help is greatly appreciated!