Gilbert PTO Newsletter - September 2022

Current Programs & Upcoming Events

- <u>Trunk or Treat</u>: Get spooky and join us for Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 30, 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the elementary school! All the details about hosting a trunk are in the sign-up link <u>HERE</u>. There will be a collection box at the elementary and intermediate schools starting next week to collect nut-free candy and non-candy items to hand out at the event.
- <u>Donations for High School Conferences</u>: PTO provides dinner for teachers at all four schools for both nights of conferences. We cater from a local restaurant, stock the staff fridge with drinks, and your donations help make it possible! Here's how you can help for the upcoming high school conferences: <u>HS donations</u>. (This sign-up is only for high school meals. Another sign-up will be sent for the other schools prior to their November conferences.)
- <u>Varsity Carwash Fundraiser</u>: For the entire month of October, 50% of the proceeds of washes at Varsity Carwash will help support the PTO. With vacuums, towels, compressed air and cleaning spray, they have everything you need to make that minivan shine! Thank you to owners Brad and Emily Jensen for supporting our community! See the attached flyer for more details.
- <u>Tiny Tigers Play Group</u>: Join fellow Gilbert parents at Lions Park this Friday, September 30, at 10:00 a.m. for a chance to get to know each other while the tiny tigers run wild!
- <u>Tiger Treat Delivery</u>: Staff at all four schools enjoyed a caramel apple bar set up in their lounges this week. It was a fun surprise to show our appreciation! Special thanks to the Deal Family for helping us get some of their delicious apples to serve! Be sure to check out our Facebook page to see the pics.
- <u>Custodian Appreciation Day</u>: On Tuesday, October 4, we're saying thanks to all our custodians who make our schools sparkle! Each custodian will get a bag of goodies including a gift card to Burgie's thanks to the Burgason family. See the attached sheet for a fun way for your kids to show their appreciation.

PTO Email List

Want to be the first to know about volunteer opportunities and announcements from the PTO? Join our email list HERE!

Giving Back

Do you, your company or an organization you are part of want to do something special for our teachers and staff? We can help you coordinate details and make your donation go farther! Email PTO@gilbertcsd.org to learn more.

Join us!

Our next PTO meeting is <u>Monday</u>, <u>October 3</u>, <u>2022</u>, <u>at 7:00 p.m</u> in the <u>Gilbert Intermediate School Library</u>. The PTO is open to any parent who would like to be involved! It's a valuable way to have an impact on the schools, get to know the administration and teachers, and create community with other parents. Whatever your time and talents, we have a spot for you! **Please enter through the west athletic entrance.**

Save the Date

- October 3 PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- October 6 Dinner for HS Teachers
- October 13 Dinner for HS Teachers
- November 7 PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- November 17 Dinner for ES, IS and MS Teachers
- November 21 Dinner for ES, IS and MS Teachers
- December 5 PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Questions or comments? Email pto@gilbertcsd.org. Follow us on <u>Facebook!</u>

Gilbert PTO Newsletter - October 2022

Current Programs & Upcoming Events

- <u>Trunk or Treat</u>: The PTO is excited to host a Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 30, 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Gilbert Elementary School! All families of Gilbert schools are welcome to join us for this fun community event. Teachers, staff, student groups and families will be hosting decorated trunks for your trick-or-treaters to visit. A big shoutout to all the families who donated candy to make it possible!
- <u>Varsity Carwash Fundraiser</u>: There is still time to clean your car and give back to the PTO at Varsity Carwash! Until October 31, 50% of the proceeds of washes will be donated to the PTO. Purchase any single wash at the paystation, press "Enter Code" and enter 50105 (Gilbert's zip code). They have locations at 1016 S. Duff and 3705 Lincoln Way.
- Donations for Conference Meals: PTO provides dinner for teachers for both nights of conferences on November 17 and 21. We cater from a local restaurant, stock the staff fridge with drinks, and your donations help make it possible! Here are the sign-ups with ways to help: <u>Elementary School</u> / <u>Intermediate School</u> / <u>Middle School</u>. The teachers love this tradition and are so grateful for each meal!
- <u>Tiny Tigers Play Group</u>: We have a new regular spot to meet and play! Join us at the Gilbert Franklin Community Room connected to the fire station for some kid fun and adult conversation. Bring your babies, toddlers and preschoolers, and we'll provide toys and space to play. November 4 and 18, December 2 and 16, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
- **Kleenex Donations for High School**: The supply of Kleenex at the high school has already run out! It goes quickly because they are not a required school supply. We would greatly appreciate it if parents could send in a box with their highschooler to drop in the office.
- <u>Teachers & Staff Favorite Things</u>: If you're looking for a personal way to thank teachers and staff, follow the link to their favorite things <u>HERE</u>. And remember, they always love a thoughtful note from parents and students!
- **Square 1 Art Fundraiser**: Fan favorite fundraiser that features your kids' adorable artwork is kicking off next week. Just in time for holiday giving or adding some pizzazz to your home!

Join us!

Our next PTO meeting is Monday, November 7, 2022, at 7:00 p.m in the Gilbert Intermediate School Library. The PTO is open to any parent who would like to be involved! It's a valuable way to have an impact on the schools, get to know the administration and teachers, and create community with other parents. Whatever your time and talents, we have a spot for you! **Please enter through the west athletic entrance.**

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Gilbert PTO Newsletter - November 2022

Current Programs & Upcoming Events

- Christmas Cookie Walk: The PTO is excited to host a Christmas Cookie Walk this Saturday, December 3! Join us at Gilbert Elementary from 9-11 a.m. and walk down the line of assorted cookies and treats to pick out one dozen for \$10 and hot cocoa for \$1. Then walk down the halls of the school to see the winter wonderland in the library and tour the decorated classroom doors and vote for your favorite. The winning class will have a cookie and cocoa party sponsored by the PTO! We are still in need of some volunteers and bakers to make it happen. Christmas Cookie Walk Sign Up
- <u>Tiny Tigers Play Group</u>: Join us at the Gilbert Franklin Community Room connected to the fire station for some kid fun and adult conversation. Bring your babies, toddlers and preschoolers, and we'll provide toys and space to play on December 16, 9:30-11:00 a.m. *<u>December 2 group has been CANCELED</u>.*
- <u>Teachers & Staff Favorite Things</u>: If you're looking for a personal way to thank teachers and staff, follow the link to their favorite things <u>HERE</u>. And remember, they always love a thoughtful note from parents and students!
- **Staff Appreciation**: We are seeking donations to help us recognize all the staff members who work hard to care for our students each day. If you would like to help us to make their appreciation days special, view the sign up HERE.
- **Special Education Day**: Friday, December 2 is Special Education Day and the PTO is so excited to show the SpEd staff some extra love! Their kindness, patience and hard work are part of what makes Gilbert schools great for everyone!
- Seven Habits of Highly Effective Families: Amy Griffin, Intermediate School Principal, is excited to share about a new workshop to support families in bringing the elements of the Leader in Me program into practice at home. PTO is happy to be a partner so that families can attend at no cost. You do not need to have a student at the intermediate school to participate--all families are welcome! See the attached flyer for more info.

Giving Thanks

- **Donations for Conference Meals**: We're so grateful for the families who helped make dinner possible for our teachers and staff during conferences! We served over 300 meals! Special thanks to Chick-fil-A, Fareway North and Pizza Ranch for partnering with us to offer delicious food at a great price. The teachers love this tradition and are so grateful for each meal!
- <u>Varsity Carwash Fundraiser</u>: You all showed up and washed your cars during October at Varsity Carwash and earned \$375 for the PTO! And to make it even sweeter, owners Brad and Emily Jensen matched that amount for a total of \$750 to support our efforts! These proceeds will help us do great things, and we hope Varsity has some new superfans!
- **Square 1 Art Fundraiser**: Thank you to everyone who purchased gifts to support our fundraiser this month! We hope the items with your child's artwork will be something you cherish for years to come.
- <u>Kleenex Donations for High School</u>: The high school is SO appreciative of the boxes of Kleenex that have been sent in for their students. It's a constant need so if you see a sale and want to stock up, they'll happily take another box any time of the year.

Join us!

Our next PTO meeting is Monday, December 5, 2022, at 7:00 p.m in the Gilbert Intermediate School Library for our Mingle and Jingle Holiday party! We'll cover regular business and then celebrate the season with a simple gift exchange and snacks to share. It would be a great meeting to attend if you have never joined us! Email Annie for more info at pto@gilbertcsd.org. **Please enter through the west athletic entrance.**

- Want to be the first to know about opportunities and announcements from the PTO? Join our email list <u>HERE!</u>
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January 2023 Gilbert PTO Newsletter

Kick off the new year by joining us at our next meeting! If you answer yes to any of the following questions, PTO could be a good fit for you!

- Do you love Gilbert teachers and staff?
- Do you want to help make memories for your students?
- Do you hope to meet other parents in the district?

Our next meeting is Monday, January 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m in the Gilbert Intermediate School Library. The PTO is open to any parent who would like to be involved! **Please enter through the west athletic entrance.**

Current Programs & Upcoming Events

- Step It Up Fundraiser: Mark your calendars for the exciting kickoff of our Step It Up Fundraiser on Wednesday, February 8! Elementary and intermediate students will participate in our largest fundraiser of the year that helps purchase equipment and materials for the schools and the Day of Awesomeness! More details to follow later this month.
- **Staff Appreciation**: We are seeking donations to help us recognize all the staff members who work hard to care for our students each day. If you would like to help us to make their appreciation days special, view the sign up **HERE**. Please deliver donations to any school office by January 20.
- **Staff Appreciation Days**: February 6-10 is School Counseling Week and we'll be celebrating our counselors, social workers and instructional coaches. February 22 is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day.
- Chess Club at Intermediate School: Do you have a chess set you no longer need? The new Chess Club at the intermediate school is in need of a few more sets for students. Please drop off at the intermediate school office by Friday, January 13, if you have one you are willing to donate. They are also looking for middle and high school students or parents to volunteer to assist with teaching the kids. Email PTO@gilbertcsd.org for more information.
- <u>Tiny Tigers Play Group</u>: Join us at the Gilbert Franklin Community Room connected to the fire station for some kid fun and adult conversation. Bring your babies, toddlers and preschoolers, and we'll provide toys and space to play on January 13 and 27, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

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February 2023 Gilbert PTO Newsletter

Current Programs and Upcoming Events

- Step It Up Fundraiser: One week until we kick off our Step It Up Fundraiser on Wednesday, February 8! That night your elementary and intermediate students will come home totally pumped to turn in their golden ticket THE NEXT DAY. What that means for you is entering 10 emails PER student into your online account. It's that easy! Last year families loved how easy it was for their out-of-town family and friends to donate. Your future self will thank you if you start rounding up those email addresses now!
- **Step It Up Prizes**: Those excited kids will be storming in next Thursday morning like Charlie with their golden tickets and you can be the one to hand over the goods! It's a fast and easy <u>way to help</u>.
- Staff Appreciation: On February 16 we're showing our support staff some love! If you're running errands this
 week and could please grab a gift card to donate it would be a HUGE help! View the sign up <u>HERE</u>. Please
 deliver donations to any school office by Monday, February 6.
- **Bus Driver Appreciation Day**: On February 22 we are thanking our dedicated bus drivers with a breakfast after their morning runs. Sign up to help <u>HERE</u>.
- <u>High School Parents for Teacher Appreciation Week</u>: If you're a high school parent passionate about showing appreciation for teachers, now's your chance! Join the TAW committee <u>HERE</u>.
- <u>Tiny Tigers Play Group</u>: Join us at the Gilbert Franklin Community Room connected to the fire station for some kid fun and adult conversation. Bring your babies, toddlers and preschoolers, and we'll provide toys and space to play on February 10 and 24, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
- **Conference Meals**: Both nights of conferences we serve 140 dinners to our teachers and staff. We're in need of help at the schools to accept the meal delivery and set up the buffet for the teachers. More info <u>HERE</u>.

Coming Up After Spring Break

- <u>Mileage Club</u>: Get those running shoes ready! Elementary and intermediate students love the annual program that encourages them to get their bodies moving! The program is a success every year thanks to MANY volunteers so be on the lookout for how to help. A BIG thank you to our coordinators this year–Marnie Johansen for the elementary school and Marcie Wilson for the intermediate school.
- 1st Day School Supply Kits: Plan ahead and order your school supply kit for next fall this spring.

Join us!

Our next PTO meeting is Monday, February 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gilbert Intermediate School Library. The PTO is open to any parent who would like to be involved! It's a valuable way to have an impact on the schools, get to know the administration and teachers, and create community with other parents. Whatever your time and talents, we have a spot for you! **Please enter through the west athletic entrance.**

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March 2023 Gilbert PTO Newsletter

Our next PTO meeting is **Monday, March 6, 2023, 7:00-8:00 p.m.** in the **HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**. If you need to leave early or arrive late because of conferences, it's no problem!

Giving Thanks

- **Step It Up Fundraiser**: We're thrilled to announce our Step It Up Fundraiser raised \$30,000 to support our schools!!! What a success! This is thanks to our incredibly generous community near and far. The students are already counting down the days to the Day of Awesomeness on May 10!
- Staff Appreciation Day: On February 16 we showed our support staff some love with huge baskets of supplies, snacks and gift cards. All your donations made it happen! Plus, <u>Sign Gypsies Ames</u> donated the festive signage near the roundabout. They offer fun signage for all your celebrations!

Current Programs and Upcoming Events

- Conference Meals: Both nights of conferences we serve 140+ dinners to our teachers and staff and fill the fridge in their lounges with drinks. If you want to help support this tradition each school has a sign-up: Elementary/Intermediate/Middle/High.
- **Tissues and Wipes Collection**: We are placing a bin at the entrance of all 4 schools next week for donations of tissues and disinfectant wipes. Supplies are low, and if you have an extra to share when you come to conferences it would be greatly appreciated!
- Yearbook Ordering: Now is the time to order your elementary and intermediate yearbooks! Orders can be placed on Infinite Campus through *March 31*. After logging in, select "Fees" from the left-hand column. Click the "Optional Payments" button at the bottom of the screen. Add "ES Yearbook" or "IS Yearbook" to cart for EACH student you need one for.
- **Tiny Tigers Play Group**: Join us at the Gilbert Franklin Community Room connected to the fire station for some kid fun and adult conversation. Bring your babies, toddlers and preschoolers, and we'll provide toys and space to play on March 3 and 24, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Coming Up After Spring Break

- **Bus Driver Breakfast**: Our bus driver breakfast has been postponed to Thursday, April 13, due to school canceled on the original day.
- **Mileage Club**: Get those running shoes ready! Elementary and intermediate love the annual program that encourages them to get their bodies moving! The program is a success every year thanks to MANY volunteers so be on the lookout for how to help.
- 1st Day School Supply Kits: Plan ahead and order your school supply kit for next fall this spring!

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April 2023 Gilbert PTO Newsletter

Our final PTO meeting of the school year is **Monday, May 1, 2023, 7:00-8:00 p.m.** in the **INTERMEDIATE LIBRARY**. Hope to see you there!

Current Programs and Upcoming Events

- **School Supply Kits**: Our online store with 1st Day School Supplies is up and running! Order your kits for this fall now for grades preschool-8th grade. If you would like to order a kit to donate, we are in need of supplies to support district families at all grade levels. <u>ORDER HERE</u>
- **Bingo at Intermediate School**: We are holding a Bingo event for intermediate students on Sunday, April 16! Please fill out the registration form if you are interested in attending. <u>REGISTER HERE</u>
- **Gift Basket Donation**: If putting together fun gift baskets is your jam, please consider donating one for our raffle for students at our Bingo event! **DONATE HERE**
- **Principal Appreciation Day**: We are celebrating the wonderful leaders of our schools on Monday, May 1! Do you have any photos, memories or stories to share about your favorite Gilbert principals? Or want to say thanks? Email photos and messages to bethgeisinger@me.com to help us make the day special!
- Mileage Club: The kids are off and running! Mileage Club offers K-5 students the opportunity to walk or run during designated recess time to encourage physical activity. Students earn prizes and participation is voluntary with no cost to the students or schools. But we do need your help! Volunteers are needed to check-in students and cheer them on! Younger siblings are welcome with volunteers. ELEMENTARY / INTERMEDIATE
- **Tiny Tigers Play Group**: Join us at the Gilbert Franklin Community Room connected to the fire station for some kid fun and adult conversation. Bring your babies, toddlers and preschoolers, and we'll provide toys and space to play on April 7 and 21, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Special Shoutout

- A big thank you to Caitlin Preston and Rachel De Bruin for all the love, creativity and time put into making the elementary and intermediate yearbooks! It's an amazing keepsake for our families, and we're so appreciative of their hard work to make the magic happen!

Looking Ahead

- **Bus Driver Breakfast**: We are celebrating our bus drivers who keep our schools running on Thursday, April 13 with a breakfast in the bus barn after their morning runs.
- **Lunch on the Lawn**: On Monday, May 1, parents will be invited to have a picnic lunch with elementary students. More information will be coming soon!
- **Day of Awesomeness**: Be on the lookout for a chance to help control the chaos on Wednesday, May 10. It's a big day of fun for preschool-5th grade to celebrate the success of the Step It Up Fundraiser!
- Teacher Appreciation Week: We have exciting plans to make the week of May 8-12 very special for our teachers! Be on the lookout for ways you can contribute to make it a special week.

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May 2023 Gilbert PTO Newsletter

The school year is quickly coming to a close and PTO has a lot to celebrate! We are an all-volunteer, parent-run, non-profit organization and our work takes MANY hands to make it all possible. We are so grateful for all the time, energy and donations of families, teachers and staff who support our work! None of it would be possible without the support of our superintendent Dr. Trujillo and principals Staci Edwards, Amy Griffin, Mike Danilson and Cindy Bassett who cheerlead our efforts and help us coordinate all the things. We can't wait for all the exciting things to come for the 23-24 school year! Check out our **PTO YEAR IN REVIEW**.

Current Programs and Upcoming Events

- Teacher Appreciation Week: Next week, May 8-12, we're celebrating our amazing teachers! Handwritten notes
 from students and parents are always a favorite. If you want to give a personalized gift, check out our teacher
 and staff favorite things list. FAVORITES
- **School Supply Kits**: Imagine it's next August and the start of school is approaching. You're in a panic about all that needs to get done. Suddenly you realize you ordered a school supply kit! Calm washes over you. Your future self will thank you if you order by July 1. <u>ORDER HERE</u>
- **Day of Awesomeness**: We're in the final countdown to the Day of Awesomeness on Wednesday, May 10! PK-5th graders will enjoy an afternoon of fun with a DJ dance party and inflatables. Please be sure your students have a <u>water bottle</u> (it's going to be hot and no water fountains available) and extra socks. Sunscreen applied before school is recommended.
- **End of Year Survey**: We work hard to meet the needs of our students, staff and families and would appreciate your feedback on how we can serve you better. <u>SURVEY</u>
- **Mileage Club**: The weather is warming up so it's the perfect time to help with Mileage Club! Just a few slots left to help. Thank you to our volunteers for continued support of this program! <u>ELEMENTARY</u> / <u>INTERMEDIATE</u>
- **Tiny Tigers Play Group**: We enjoyed a fun year of families getting to know each other. There are no more dates this school year, but be on the lookout for some summer fun!

Celebrations

- **Bus Driver Breakfast**: On Thursday, April 13 the bus barn was busy with a hot breakfast for all the drivers who keep our schools running! It was a special day to celebrate a very deserving group of staff!
- Principal Appreciation Day: On Monday, May 1, we surprised our dedicated leaders with a gift basket to celebrate School Principal's Day! Gilbert schools are great because of their hard work for every student, every day.
- **Lunch on the Lawn**: Elementary families came to school for a picnic lunch and recess on Monday, May 1. It was a special day for students to share the school they love with their families. And special props to the parents who survived slide mountain!

Special Thanks

- We had a fantastic afternoon of Bingo at the intermediate school! Prizes were won, snacks were eaten, and fun was had by all. Special thanks to the families who donated the spectacular raffle baskets! And we're so grateful for Brekke's Town & Country for donating the popcorn and Hy-Vee the juice boxes. The support of our community is what makes our PTO events so successful!
- The middle school was blown away by all the generous donations from families to support their mental health activities supply drive! They had a wonderful afternoon recharging and having fun with friends during this busy time of year. Your donations made the day and future opportunities like it possible!

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