

## October 2023 Gilbert PTO Newsletter

All Gilbert Schools parents, guardians and staff are invited to join us at our next meeting, **Monday, October 2, 7:00 p.m.** in the high school library to learn more about the exciting things happening with Gilbert PTO! We're looking forward to having our superintendent, Dr. Christine Trujillo, present information about the upcoming bond vote and what it means for our community.

### **Current Programs and Upcoming Events**

- **Trunk or Treat:** Bring your trick-or-treaters and join us for Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 29, 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the elementary school! Many staff will be decorating trunks and families are invited to join in as well. This free community event is a success thanks to your generous nut-free candy donations. Elementary and intermediate schools have a collection bin inside the entrance. [TRUNK SIGN-UP](#)
- **Tiny Tigers Play Group:** Bring your babies, toddlers and preschoolers to Northridge Heights Park on Wednesday, October 4, 10:00 a.m. to decorate a pumpkin and meet new friends! If you are interested in attending, please comment on our Facebook post so we have enough supplies for all the tiny tigers.
- **Fall Volunteer Opportunities:** We have some exciting events happening this fall that offer many ways to plug in and help. [VOLUNTEER](#)

### **Staff Favorite Things**

- Find favorites of Gilbert Schools staff [HERE](#). \*This is a voluntary list to fill out and not all staff choose to do so.\*

### **Save the Date**

- Trunk or Treat - Sunday, October 29, 3:00-5:00 p.m., Gilbert Elementary
- PTO Meeting - Monday, November 6, 7:00 p.m., Gilbert High Library
- Christmas Cookie Walk - Saturday, December 2, 9:00-11:00 a.m., Gilbert Elementary
- PTO Meeting - Monday, December 4, 7:00 p.m., Gilbert High Library

### **Stay in Touch**

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## November 2023 Gilbert PTO Newsletter

All Gilbert Schools parents, guardians and staff are invited to join us at our next meeting, **Monday, November 6, 7:00 p.m.** in the high school library to learn more about the exciting things happening with Gilbert PTO!

### Giving Thanks

Trunk or Treat 2023 was a HUGE success thanks to so many in our community! The volunteers who hosted trunks went above and beyond to make the day special. Candy donations from families and Fareway made sure we had plenty for all the trick-or-treaters. The second grade team with their ESPN GameDay trunk was voted fan favorite! With over 800 people attending, it was a full house, and we're already excited for next year!

We're excited to announce that Gilbert PTO is officially a 501(c)3 nonprofit with tax-exempt status! This would not have been possible without Jonathon Schroeder, a Gilbert dad and attorney with Fredrikson & Byron P.A., who donated his time and talents to make the process a success.

### Current Programs and Upcoming Events

- **Conference Meal Donations:** PTO is planning to show our teachers some love for the long hours they put in during conferences by providing them with dinner both nights. We do this at all 4 schools so that's about 300 meals served! It's something our teachers greatly appreciate, and we can't do without your help. Each school has a separate sign up for each night. There will be a catered dinner, fridge full of drinks, and an after-school snack mix. All donations are appreciated! Sign ups: [Elementary](#) / [Intermediate](#) / [Middle](#) / [High](#)
- **Tiny Tigers Play Group:** Bring your babies, toddlers and preschoolers to the Gilbert Fire Station on Wednesday, November 15! Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Gilbert Franklin Community Room (connected to fire station) 105 SE 2nd Street. We will put together a survival kit goodie basket for the firefighters. If you would like to donate an item we are collecting Lifesavers, Starburst, Hershey Kisses, Peppermint Patties, Snickers, and packs of gum. We will present it to the firefighters as a thank you for all they do and enjoy a tour of the fire station and trucks. A donation is not required to attend!
- **Moms' Night Out:** We're hosting our first-ever Moms' Night Out on Tuesday, November 28, 6:00-8:00 p.m., at Oak Lane Candle Co.! Check out this form for more information and complete it if interested! [Mom's Night Out RSVP](#)
- **Christmas Cookie Walk:** Join us for our second annual Christmas Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 2, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the elementary school! You'll be able to shop for some homemade goodies, enjoy some hot cocoa, and make a stop at the book fair. If you love to bake, now's your chance to shine! Plus, there are still spots to help the day of the event. It's a sweet way to kick off the holiday season!
  - [Cookie Donation Sign Up](#)
  - [Cookie Walk Volunteer Sign Up](#)
- **Literacy Night:** Save the date Thursday, December 7, 6:00-7:00 p.m. for a family literacy night at the elementary. More details coming soon!

### Staff Favorite Things

- Find favorites of Gilbert Schools staff [HERE](#). \*This is a voluntary list to fill out and not all staff choose to do so.\*

### Upcoming PTO Meetings

- Monday, November 6, 7:00 p.m., Gilbert High Library
- Monday, December 4, 7:00 p.m., Gilbert High Library

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## December 2023 Gilbert PTO Newsletter

All Gilbert Schools parents, guardians and staff are invited to join us at our next meeting, **Monday, December 4, 7:00 p.m.** in the high school library. Our regular meeting will be held until 7:30 p.m. and then we'll have snacks and do a "Favorite Things" gift exchange. Bring a \$10-15 gift if you would like to participate or just stay to mingle!

### **Giving Thanks**

- **Conference Meal Donations:** PTO served 300 meals to our teachers during conferences! This is no small feat to coordinate at all 4 schools while our teachers are working hard to serve our families. It would not have been possible without our generous community! Donny and Stacie O'Brien from Dublin Bay and Mitch Saienga from Ge-Angelo's offered amazing meals at an affordable price. Over 100 families donated drinks to fill the fridges, food for an after-school snack mix, monetary donations to contribute to the dinners, plus a large group of volunteers helping pull it all together. Thank you to all who contributed to make this tradition possible!
- **Moms' Night Out:** Thank you to all the moms who attended our first Moms' Night Out Event at Oak Lane Candle Co! It was a fun way to strengthen our parent community so we can have a greater impact on our students and schools. We met moms from all four schools, and we're looking forward to the next event!
- **Showing Gratitude:** Gifts of thanksgiving are always appreciated by our Gilbert Schools staff, but we hear over and over again how much they enjoy a thoughtful note from parents or students. Taking time to send an email or write a note goes a long way to warm their hearts during this busy time of year!

### **Upcoming Events**

- **Christmas Cookie Walk:** The elementary school has been transformed into a winter wonderland for our Christmas Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 2, 9:00-11:00 a.m.! Walk down the line of goodies and pick one dozen for \$10. Take your treats to-go or enjoy them in the lunch room with hot cocoa for \$1. Walk down the hallways of the school to view the decorated classroom doors and vote for your favorite. The winning class will get a cookies and cocoa party sponsored by PTO! Be sure to stop by the book fair in the library and don't forget to snap a picture with Santa Tiger! \*Please note the book fair is open before and after our event from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.\*
- **Family Literacy Night:** Cozy up with some good books for Family Literacy Night from 6:00-7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 7, at the elementary school! Families are invited to visit classrooms to hear a number of stories read by special guests and make a bookmark in the lunch room. Stay for one story or catch a few--however works best for your family! Shop the book fair from 3:30-7:30 p.m.
- **Tiny Tigers Play Group:** Bring your babies, toddlers and preschoolers to the Gilbert Library on Tuesday, December 12, at 10:00 a.m. We'll enjoy a snow themed story time, craft, cookies, and cocoa!

### **Staff Favorite Things**

- Find favorites of Gilbert Schools staff [HERE](#). \*This is a voluntary list to fill out and not all staff choose to do so.\* (Any staff wishing to be included or make changes, fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/cad8b37PNC6KerSm8>.)

### **Monthly PTO Meetings at Gilbert High Library**

- Monday, December 4, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, January 8, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, March 4, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, April 1, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, May 6, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

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## January 2024 Gilbert PTO Newsletter

All Gilbert Schools parents, guardians and staff are invited to join us at our next meeting, **Monday, February 5, 7:00 p.m.** in the high school library. It's never too late in the year to come and see what we're all about!

### **Annual Fundraiser**

Golden Tickets are coming home on Monday, January 29! That means it's the kick off of our annual fundraiser with PK-8th grade. On Monday, your student will be VERY excited for you to help complete their Golden Ticket! This simple step is what makes our fundraiser a success! The money raised is our total budget for all programming and purchases for our schools and covers the favorite day of the year for our PK-5th grade students—The Best Day Ever (formerly called the Day of Awesomeness)! The middle school will also be participating with the Massive Giveaway Week. Each school has exciting updates they hope to bring to their schools with the success of the fundraiser. See the [recent posts on our Facebook page](#) to learn more about the impact your donation has on our Gilbert Schools community!

### **Volunteers Needed**

Golden Ticket prizes will be handed out next week, and we're looking for some additional volunteers to help. Check the [sign up](#) for more details.

### **Yearbook Orders**

The ordering period for elementary and intermediate yearbooks will open on Friday, February 2. Yearbooks are \$15 each. All the details will be sent via email that day and a paper order form sent home in student folders. The ordering deadline is the Thursday before Spring Break.

### **Tiny Tigers Play Group**

We're excited to welcome Gilbert mom, Wendy Nutini, from Tuneful Journey to our next Tiny Tigers Play Group! Bring your babies, toddlers and preschoolers for a musical story time this Friday, January 26, at 9:30 a.m. in the Gilbert Franklin Community Room (connected to fire station), 105 SE 2nd Street. This event is free to attend and open to Gilbert Schools families—present and future! Wendy offers an amazing array of classes for kids 0-7 at her studio in North Grand Mall. Learn more about her offerings here: <https://www.tunefuljourney.com/>.

### **Looking Ahead**

- Conference Meals for Teachers: March 4 & 7
- School Supply Kit Ordering Begins April 1
- Mileage Club Kicks Off After Spring Break
- Best Day Ever (formerly called Day of Awesomeness) for PK-5th: May 3
- Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week: May 6-11

### **Staff Favorite Things**

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### **Monthly PTO Meetings at Gilbert High Library**

- Monday, March 4, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, April 1, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, May 6, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

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## February 2024 Gilbert PTO Newsletter

All Gilbert Schools parents, guardians and staff are invited to join us at our next meeting, **Monday, March 4, 7:00 p.m.** in the high school library.

### ***Annual Fundraiser***

We're excited to announce that our community has shown up in a BIG way to support our annual fundraiser! We received \$58,000 in donations! These funds will be used to support all our programs, events, equipment purchases, and The Best Day Ever on Friday, May 3 for PK-5th grade students. We're incredibly grateful for your support!

### ***Bingo***

Join us on Sunday, February 25, 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the high school commons for an afternoon of Bingo! All students and families of Gilbert Schools are invited to join us. Ten games will be played and cards can be purchased 10 for \$5 or 25 for \$10. There will be prizes and popcorn! Cash or check paid at the door. We are in need of volunteers to help make the magic happen. [Sign me up!](#)

### ***Conference Childcare***

PTO hopes to support families with free childcare during conferences at the elementary school, but we need your help! Volunteers can be adults, middle or high school students. Please see the [sign up](#) for more details. If we have enough volunteers, more details will be sent out to elementary families next week about availability.

### ***Kleenex Drive for High School***

We want to show some love to the high school with a Kleenex drive! Please drop off donations at the school office through the end of the month. Every box is appreciated!

### ***Moms' Night Out***

All moms of Gilbert students are invited for a night out at Duckpin Bowling! Join us at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 29. If interested, please let us know through this form so we can plan accordingly. Come make some new mom friends! [MNO Form](#)

### ***Conference Meals for Teachers***

It's that time of the year again when we serve 150 meals to our dedicated teachers during conferences. This semester there will be catered dinner from Jethro's BBQ and Chipotle plus an afterschool snack mix and fridges full of drinks. Each school has a sign up to help. Our staff appreciates this gesture very much!

[Volunteers](#) - [Elementary](#) - [Intermediate](#) - [Middle](#) - [High](#)

### ***Elementary and Intermediate Yearbook Orders***

Before spring break begins, please place orders for your elementary and intermediate yearbooks. Each building has their own book of memories for \$15. Please complete this [Google form](#) and return the paper order form with your payment.

### ***Tiny Tigers Play Group***

Bring your babies, toddlers and preschoolers for story time and a craft at Gilbert Library on Tuesday, March 19, 10:00 a.m. Parents can connect with each other while the littles have some fun!

### ***Gilbert Groove***

New this year is an event for intermediate students and their parents called the Gilbert Groove! Join us on Sunday, April 21, 2:00-3:30 p.m. for music, movement, friends and fun!

### **Staff Favorite Things**

Find favorites of Gilbert Schools staff [HERE](#). \*This is a voluntary list to fill out and not all staff choose to do so.\* (Any staff wishing to be included or make changes, fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/cad8b37PNC6KerSm8>.)

### **Upcoming PTO Meetings at Gilbert High Library**

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- Monday, April 1, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, May 6, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

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## **April 2024 Gilbert PTO Newsletter**

All Gilbert Schools parents, guardians and staff are invited to join us at our final meeting of the year, **Monday, May 6, 7:00 p.m.** in the high school library.

### ***Conference Meal Thank You***

Thanks to your generous donations and volunteer help we again served 150 meals to our teachers during conferences! They enjoyed dinner from Jethro's and Chipotle with an afterschool snack mix plus a fridge full of drinks. We appreciate your help in making it all come together!

### ***Bus Driver Breakfast***

Help us show our dedicated bus drivers how much we appreciate them with breakfast at the bus barn! A sign up to help us treat them is [HERE](#).

### ***Mileage Club***

Our elementary and intermediate students are working on healthy habits with the annual program Mileage Club. Volunteers are needed at both schools to help log student miles. Sign up for [ELEMENTARY](#) or [INTERMEDIATE](#) and consider joining the [Mileage Club Facebook Group](#) for weather updates and pictures of the fun.

### ***Tiny Tigers Play Group***

Bring your babies, toddlers and preschoolers for play time at Gilbert Franklin Community Room (connected to fire station) 105 SE 2nd Street on Wednesday, April 17, 10:00 a.m. Parents can connect with each other while the littles have some fun!

### ***Gilbert Groove***

Intermediate families should be on the lookout for more information about our first annual Gilbert Groove on Sunday, April 21, 2:00-3:30 p.m. for an afternoon of fun for students and parents to have fun and build community!

### ***School Supply Kits***

Ordering has opened for school supply kits for the 2024-2025 school year. Kits are available for PK-8th grade. This is a convenient service for families with kits delivered directly to the schools and PTO earns \$5 per kit. It's a win-win! Order [HERE](#) through July 1, 2024.

### ***Best Day Ever***

Friday, May 3, is the Best Day Ever to celebrate the success of the Next Level fundraiser with elementary and intermediate students! If you are looking to join in the fun, please sign up to help [HERE](#).

### ***Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week***

Mark your calendars for a week of thanks for our teachers and staff May 6-10!

### ***Staff Favorite Things***

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## May 2024 Gilbert PTO Newsletter

The school year is quickly coming to a close and PTO has a lot to celebrate! We're an all-volunteer, parent-run, non-profit organization and our work takes MANY hands to make it all possible. We're 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. Check out our [PTO YEAR IN REVIEW](#) to see the impact we are having on the Gilbert Schools community!

### **Celebrations**

- **Bus Driver Breakfast:** On April 15 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!
- **Gilbert Groove:** Things were moving and grooving at our first ever Gilbert Groove on April 21 at the intermediate school! Over 300 students and parents joined in the fun for this free event thanks to our generous donors. Another Tiger Tradition has begun!
- **Best Day Ever:** This Tiger Tradition is possible thanks to our incredible donors who give to our annual Next Level Fundraiser. Our group of volunteers brought wonderful energy and helped control the chaos. Plus, teachers and staff made the magic happen coordinating behind-the-scenes details. Our village showed up to truly make it the BEST DAY EVER!
- **Mileage Club:** Another fantastic spring of movement and fun with Mileage Club! We had 44 students join the 25 Mile Club—WOW! Our students logged a total of 7,922 miles! This program isn't possible without the army of volunteers to help week after week. Thank you for logging all the miles and cheering our students on!
- **Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week:** Gilbert schools are great because of the hard work of our teachers and staff for every student, every day. We pulled out all the stops for them during appreciation week! From fridges full of goodies, donut breakfast, trail mix bars, hydration station, special notes from students, and special giveaways. Please consider supporting these local businesses who give so generously to our community: Ames Spine & Sport, Brekke's Town & Country, Center Grove Orchard, Dog Eared Books, Fareway (North Ames), Great Plains, Ignite Yoga, JAX, Knot & Grain, Moose on the Loose, Petal Obsession by Rachael, Reiman Gardens, The Salon in Ames, Sign Gypsies Ames, Varsity Carwash, The Vault, and Zeal Design Co.

### **Fundraisers Supporting Parents & PTO**

- **School Supply Kits:** Imagine it's 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. [ORDER HERE](#)
- **Calendar Sale:** It's back! These high-quality calendars are loved by Gilbert families because they have all the important district dates for the school year. The most popular is the Original 12x18 plus there is an assortment of planners as well that run July 2024-July 2025. Ordering closes on Monday, June 10, and calendars will be available for pick up the last week of June. [ORDER HERE](#)

### **Intermediate School New Student Meet & Greet**

The intermediate school counselor, Joy Sparrey, is looking for parent volunteers to help plan her orientation event for families new to the district. It will be held the week of August 19, from 5:00-6:00 p.m. the night before the regular back-to-school event. If you and your current intermediate student would like to help, please email Joy at [sparreyj@gilbertcsd.org](mailto:sparreyj@gilbertcsd.org).

### **Summer News**

Join our email list if you would like to stay up to date with PTO news this summer. Exciting things for next year are already in the works! [HERE](#)

### **Staff Favorite Things**

Find favorites of Gilbert Schools staff [HERE](#). \*This is a voluntary list to fill out and not all staff choose to do so.\* (Any staff wishing to be included or make changes, fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/cad8b37PNC6KerSm8>.)