



Dearest Gilham Families,

8/18/17

Welcome back to school! I can't wait to see all of you, very soon! This summer has been so quiet, as compared to last summer when we had the hustle and bustle of construction workers on site each day. Patti, Linda, and I are excited to welcome staff back next week and to get ready for families at our back-to-school "meet the teacher" event and PTO ice cream social on Tuesday, September 5th! Also, don't forget to check out our Facebook Page! We'll be running fun contests and giveaways, this year, as we keep families updated on the latest and greatest happenings. Be the first to "be in the know!"

Speaking of things to come, we have a number of new programs, this year, about which I'm very excited. For the first time ever, Gilham will be offering free breakfast to ALL students! Please consider joining us at 7:30 every morning for a healthy, delicious breakfast in the Jaguar Café! Also, I'm pleased to announce that our fabulous PTO will be offering a drama class and an after school choir, this year, in addition to our existing after-school enrichment opportunities! Watch for more information in the coming weeks!

This just in! We have recently been allocated some additional staffing, in order to lower class sizes at the 3rd and 4th grade levels! If you have a chance to thank the superintendent's office via email, please feel free to do so.

In looking forward to the upcoming year, we are excited to welcome a few new staff members to the team.

- Kelli McGhehey is joining our 2nd grade team, along with Ms. Hester and Ms. Price. Although this will be her first classroom, Ms. McGhehey has taught 2nd grade in both Springfield and Chile.
- Carly Albert is coming to us with 11 years of experience from Junction City. She will be teaching our newly formed and funded $\frac{3}{4}$ blend that will travel with our 4th grade rotation.
- Shannon Edwards is officially joining our 3rd grade team after having taken over a 1st grade classroom for us, last spring.

- Pete Wergeland is rounding out our 5th grade team, following Ms. Belnaps move to 1st grade. He joins us with many years experience, from Corridor Elementary.
- Kim Chinn will be leading our English Language Development program. Ms. Chinn has taught both ELD and kindergarten.
- David Sherman will be leading our Physical Education classes, and is looking forward to bringing a skills component to the program.
- Donna Wynn will be leading our music classes, this fall, and is excited that we have an active strings program.

I'd like to invite everyone to a couple of family events that we have scheduled for the upcoming weeks. As always, Gilham teachers will be hosting a "meet the teacher" time on Tuesday, September 5th, from 3:00-4:00, and our fabulous PTO will be hosting an ice-cream social and informational drop-in until 4:30. Also, please mark your calendar for Parent Info Night on Thursday, September 14th. I am excited to have a chance to celebrate all of the wonderful things happening, here at Gilham, and share our goals for the upcoming year!

Thank you so much! I hope that everyone had a terrific summer and I can't wait to see you all very soon!

Gina Wilde

Principal, Gilham Elementary



Go Jaguars!