
Tiger Times

Gillett School District Newsletter

February 2017



The Gillett School District prides itself on having a great staff that provides quality educational opportunities to our students. As you may have heard, our middle school was recently recognized as one of the top 15 middle schools in the state! This is a fantastic achievement that demonstrates the top-notch work that is being done by our students, staff, and parents all working together. We are very proud of this recognition.

I, along with several school board members, recently took part in the WASB State Convention in Milwaukee. The convention was a great opportunity to see and hear about some of the best educational practices that are going on in our State and to better understand some of the issues school districts will be facing in the coming year. I look forward to being able to bring convention materials and information to our staff and school board.

Trying to keep up with our changing weather conditions has been challenging to say the least. So far this winter we have had bitter cold, heavy snowfall, warming into the 40's, slippery ice conditions, foggy visibility, and we still have a ways to go. Student and staff safety is very important to us and our custodial staff is doing their best to keep our buildings and grounds safe for all. I'm still hoping that the groundhog does not see its shadow and we have an early spring.

If you have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to contact me for any help I can offer.

Todd Carlson – District Administrator

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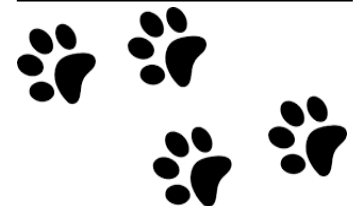
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The mission of the Gillett School District is to offer students a high quality educational experience in a secure learning environment which recognizes, values, and responds to student's individual needs.

School Board Candidates Information

On Tuesday, April 4, 2017 voters in the Gillett School District will have the opportunity to cast their ballot in the School Board Elections. Two candidates will be elected to serve in the seats currently held by John Timm and Jamie Heroux. The four candidates that will appear on the ballot are Jamie Heroux, Matt Stroik, Ron Lenz, and Tracy Winkler. John Timm has chosen not to run for reelection.

The Gillett PTO will be putting a Candidate Forum together to give the community an opportunity to hear the candidates speak on important issues facing the district. The tentative date for this forum is Tuesday, March 28. Please watch the school website for updated information on this event.

To help the community get to know the candidates a little better, a survey was sent to each candidate. Below are the answers received by the school for this newsletter. The order of the candidates for this publication was determined by a random draw.

Jamie Heroux

Age: 43 **Lived in the Gillett School District:** 17 years

Education: Graduated from Coleman High School in 1991. Received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Michigan Technological University in 1995.

Employment: Electrical Project Engineer at Paper Converting Machine Company in Green Bay, Wisconsin

Experience in School Board Leadership or other related experience: I have served on the Gillett School Board since 2014. I am currently serving as the Vice President of the board. As a member on the Buildings and Grounds committee I was involved in the process of defining the scope and getting approval for the energy savings project undertaken by the district. I was actively involved as a member of the policy committee in the process of reviewing the district's policies being updated by Neola, and working with our administration to make sure the policies made sense for our district. I also serve on the finance and personnel committee and other ad hoc committees as needed. I attend Wisconsin Association of School Board workshops to further my education and awareness of topics and trends in public education in the state of Wisconsin. Outside of school board I serve as a trustee at my church and work in multiple collaborative team environments as part of my employment at PCMC.

What major issues are facing the Gillett School District and how will you work to resolve them?

Maintaining our successful school with limited revenue is our top challenge. The board should continue to find efficiency by working with staff, collaborating with surrounding districts and leveraging today's technology. We need to advocate our needs to our state legislators who control funding. We should continue to find ways to smartly maintain our buildings and grounds and continue working at treating our educators fairly as fewer enter the profession each year.



Matthew Stroik

Age: 35 **Lived in Gillett School District:** 1 1/2 years

Education: Graduated from Milwaukee Casmir Pulaski

Employment: Works for Lamer's Bus Line driving school bus for the Gillett School District.

Experience in School Board Leadership or other related experience: I served on the Friends of Gillett Referendum Committee.

What major issues are facing the Gillett School District and how will you work to resolve them?

The budget short fall is a huge concern of mine. I believe we need to make cuts where we can, without affecting the quality of education and the current curriculum. We have an obligation to our students and our community to make sure the school district stays in the city of Gillett.



Ron Lenz

Age: 63 **Lived in Gillett School District:** 30 years

Education: Kimberly High School graduate. University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire graduate with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Comprehensive Public Accounting.

Employment: Retired July 2016. Worked in accounting, finance, and human resources for a variety of manufacturers in Green Bay and Oconto County since 1980. Began career in public accounting in 1976.

Experience in School Board Leadership or other related experience: Held variety of parish leadership positions for St. John Catholic Parish in Gillett. Member of Board of Total Catholic Education at ABVM Parish in Pulaski for 3 years. Youth girls' basketball coach in Gillett for 6 years. Town of Morgan Treasurer for 6 years.

What major issues are facing the Gillett School District and how will you work to resolve them?

Meeting the challenge of financial management of a small public school in Wisconsin considering uncertainty of state aid, ensuring the long-term viability of the Gillett School District. Maintaining and building on what has made Gillett School District an award-winning school in Wisconsin. Continue to establish relationships with technical colleges as an alternative to students who choose not to, or cannot, attend a university.



Tracy Winkler

Age: 46 **Lived in the Gillett School District:** 23 Years

Education: Suring High School Secondary Education: Northeast Wisconsin Technical College - Architectural Design

Employment: Human Resources/Office Assistant; Northport Marine, LLC

Experience in School Board Leadership or other related experience: I have worked as a District Administrative Assistant from 2013-2016, working closely with the board, administration and staff. I know and accurately understand District finances, budget and operations of the District.

What major issues are facing the Gillett School District and how will you work to resolve them?

There are many issues facing the Gillett School District today. With these issues to face, now is the time to start working together. We need to build a District where students, parents, teachers and staff feel that they belong.



Hats and Pajamas for a Cause

The students at Gillett Elementary School had a fundraiser on Friday, Dec. 23rd. The students paid \$1.00 to wear a hat all day or \$1.00 to wear pajamas all day. They could pay \$2.00 to wear both. The turnout was amazing! The students raised \$238 for the Oconto River Kids organization. Oconto River Kids is a local volunteer group in Oconto County that provides hunting and fishing experiences for children with life threatening illnesses and their families. In 2014, Oconto River Kids was incorporated as a non-for-profit corporation in Wisconsin and operates as a Wisconsin charitable organization. Way to go Gillett Elementary!



Football Players Celebrate Sportsmanship Award



The 2016 Gillett Tigers Football team took pride in one major achievement this past season. The Tigers took home the Conference Sportsmanship award. This particular award is an accomplishment that is indicative of both the type of players this team has and the type of coaching they received all year. These young men remained poised on the field all season long, despite being in very tough and frustrating situations. This award was decided on by both the officials on the field and the head coaches

from the conference. To honor the athletes, they each received a t-shirt to wear proudly. Congratulations, Tigers!

Helpful Online Options for Parents

Infinite Campus is our powerful student software system that allows parents and guardians one more way to be involved in their child's education. One of the features of Infinite Campus is that it can be used to make secured, automated online payments for school fees or food service deposits anytime, night or day. Infinite Campus also allows parents in the secondary school to view their child's daily grades and homework assignments, helping students to keep on track and heading toward success. You can find more information about Infinite Campus, and how it can help you as a parent, on the district webpage under the "parent" section. If you would like additional help or information, please feel free to contact an office secretary.



New Faces in the District



Gillett is pleased to welcome two new members to the staff. Mrs. Lynda Zeitler took over as district secretary in December. She is a Gillett Graduate who previously served as the secretary for the Triton program. Mrs. Jami Parker became the High School Guidance Counselor in January. She previously worked in the Shawano School District as a Guidance Counselor. The District would also like to thank those they replace, Mrs. Tracy Winkler and Mr. Brian Bloesel, for their years of service.



Secondary School Receives Another Honor

Happy New Year!!! I hope all of you enjoyed the holiday season and the time with your family and loved ones. We are looking forward to a fabulous second semester of school.

As we begin our second semester, we will continue our focus on excellence in teaching and learning. Our goal is to ensure that every child receives a world-class education that prepares them to be career and college ready. We are committed to providing each student with engaging lessons that challenge them to learn at the highest level. We work collaboratively as a team to create the most effective learning environment for all of our students, encouraging them to be positive leaders and role models. We are committed to the success of each student and hope that every student will feel connected to school through positive relationships with each other and our staff.

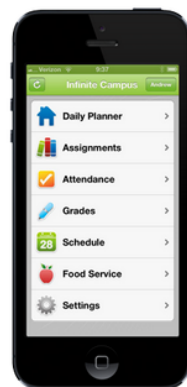








It is with great excitement that we recently learned that Gillett Middle School was listed as the 15th best middle school in the state of Wisconsin according to The Milwaukee Business Journal. This honor in addition to the High School being named as one of America's Best High Schools this past spring receiving a bronze rankings according to U.S. News and World Reports demonstrates that the hard work being done by students and staff has been exceptional. Again thank you to the entire community for your continued support in providing opportunities for the students of the Gillett School District.

I encourage you to continue to stay involved in your child's education and school life. You can keep track of your child's academic progress each week by logging on to the Infinite Campus's Parent Portal and viewing your child's grades. Each parent that would like to receive notifications will need to have an Infinite Campus portal account. If you do not already have an account, please stop at the building office where your child attends to sign up.

The teachers and staff are looking forward to seeing all you at our Parent Conferences on February 22nd and 23rd. We appreciate your support, and are honored that you afford us the opportunity to work with your children.

Steve Linssen – Secondary School Principal



-  **Daily Planner**
View today's schedule and assignments due for each class.
-  **Assignments**
Browse your assignments by specific class or due date.
-  **Attendance**
Review attendance events in summary and detail form.
-  **Grades**
Know your grades now. Forget about end-of-term report cards to know how you're doing.
-  **Schedule**
Check your schedule from anywhere, at any time.
-  **Food Service**
Check your account balance. Available in districts using Campus Food Service.

A Special Family Engagement Night

The Special Education Department held their first Family Engagement Night on December 1st. The event was a huge success, as many parents and students enjoyed an evening of collaboration. In addition to our special education staff, local representatives were available for parents to gather information on such topics as transitioning from high school and beyond, parenting classes, health and wellness, and child development.



Representatives from local agencies that were in attendance included: DVR (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation), Oconto County Extension, Birth to 3, Northern Regional Coordinator for Transition, Kathy Tuttle, CESA 8's Family Engagement Coordinator Diana Ziegler, and healthcare professionals from Prevea Health. It was all hands on deck providing answers to questions, as well as a variety of resources.



Feedback from parents who attended the evening was overwhelmingly positive! Parents shared that the evening provided access to resources they may not have known were available for their children. Along with opportunities for collaboration, families enjoyed a spaghetti dinner, which was provided by our own Joan Grill. A Spring Family Engagement Night is being planned to focus on literacy. If you would like more information, contact one of your special education staff members at Gillett Elementary or Gillett Secondary School.

Kim Klister – Special Education Director

FBLA News

On Friday, January 13th, the Gillett and Suring Future Business Leaders held a chili dinner. The event was a great way to bring the two chapters together. With the help of both chapter advisors, members, and parents just over 100 people were served. This was a great service experience for the students and a way to raise funds for both chapters. We appreciate the support of our Future Business Leaders from both communities.



On Saturday, Feb 4th the Gillett FBLA chapter will compete in their regional competition at Suring. There are 7 business students competing in the following events: Personal Finance, Business Math, Financial Math, FBLA Principles and Procedures, and Graphic Design. Students have been preparing for their events and are ready to show their skills. Students who qualify at regionals will advance to state competition in April. **Good Luck Students!**

What's New at the Elementary School?

The school year is just cruising along at Gillett Elementary! There's always a lot happening in the classroom, but there's also a lot that goes on behind the scenes. Let's learn a little bit about some of them and answer some of your questions about schools today.

“Well, what am I *supposed* to do?”

Our school is a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) school. PBIS is a proactive approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture needed for all students in a school to achieve social, emotional and academic success.

Now, what does all that mean? Perhaps when you've disciplined your own child when they are doing something wrong, they've responded by saying, “Well, what am I *supposed* to?” This is what PBIS programming does here at Gillett: instead of only giving a list of “DON'T's” and giving consequences when they break those rules, we spend a good amount of time teaching students the “DO's”, and acknowledging when they meet those expectations.



Don't worry, we still enforce our rules and give student appropriate consequences when expectations are not met. Utilizing a positive program like PBIS allows us to positively enforce behaviors we *do* want students to demonstrate. Each week, we have a school-wide lesson on an area of focus, such as expectations of how to line up and walk in the hallway. Staff members hand out “PAWS tickets” to students when they see them demonstrating the week's goal correctly. This isn't a reward, but an acknowledgment of the expected behaviors.

Students collect their tickets and trade them in at our PBIS store in our guidance counselor's office. As a school, we tally up the tickets students collect, and slowly fill up our new “PAWS-O-Meter” with plastic balls until we reach the top. When we reach our goal, we have a school wide celebration. Our first, a tailgate party out on the football field, was a tremendous success and enjoyed by students and staff alike. PBIS has helped make our school climate at Gillett Elementary a positive one!

“How am I *supposed* to catch up?”

Another program at the Elementary School is called Response to Intervention, or Rtl. Rtl is a multi-tier approach to the early identification and support of students with learning and behavior needs.

So, what does that mean? Sometimes, students start school with gaps in their learning, and as they go through the grades, some of those gaps hold them back from more advanced learning. For example, a student who has gaps in their phonics will find fourth grade reading difficult, as they are missing some of the base skills they need to do more difficult reading. That child seems to be forever behind as the rest of the class keep moving forward, asking “How am I *supposed* to catch up?”

When students go through our routine benchmark testing, we discover those gaps. We can then assign students an *intervention*, or a “double dose” of instruction in Reading or Math. These intervention periods, usually 30 minutes a day, are taught in small groups, with a certified instructor, and focus in on filling those gaps. The fourth grade student with a deficit in phonics gets *extra* instruction in their area of need, without missing their regular classroom instruction.

Students who show higher levels of need after doing a few of these interventions may be assigned an even more intensive intervention.



individualized instruction. Response to Intervention has been a winning approach to “filling in the gaps” at Gillett Elementary!

“Don’t kids need more hands-on learning?”

With the added emphasis on literacy and math, it’s easy for a subject like Science to be pushed out of the schedule. However, Science is one of those subjects that appeals to most students and provides opportunities for understandings of the world around them. It also makes sure students get the college and career readiness they need to be successful in life.

Gillett Elementary has partnered with the Einstein Project, a nonprofit corporation dedicated to improving the quality of science, mathematics, and technology education for K-12 students based in Green Bay. This organization provides hands-on science units, delivered to our door, with amazing projects ready to teach. Each of our teachers received professional training to teach the units and student really enjoy the chance to get out of their classroom and into our science lab.

More importantly, Einstein has aligned their units with the Next Generation Science Standards, a research-based set of expectations of what students should know and be able to do. Starting in second grade, every student will do three intensive science units per year, addressing an area of Physical Science, Life Science, and Earth/Space Science. Each unit also makes connections to Engineering. For example, instead of studying about concepts of an ecosystem from a text book, our fifth graders actually construct a complete ecosystem with real plants and animals, and observe the impact of different changes to the environment on their little critters.



Einstein science has been a great part of Gillett Elementary for years. Now, it is helping us train the next generation of science learners!

Curt Angeli – Elementary Principal