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# Tiger Times

Gillett School District Newsletter

November 2017

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## The Start of a New School Year

Fall is the favorite time of year for many people and there is not much that beats the sights, smells, and events of autumn. Outside of school I notice the brilliant oranges, the bold reds, and the bright yellows, the change in temperatures really bring out the colors. The smells of pumpkin flavored everything and the crackle of a fire remind us all that the seasons are changing and fall is here.



Inside school, fall is the start of a new year and you take notice of some of the changes that a new school year brings. I notice our new 4K students and all the different looks on their faces as they start their school years. I notice the new sixth-graders as they leave the elementary building and become part of the secondary building - the looks of cautious excitement. I also notice the new senior class as they become the student leaders, they are no longer juniors. The senior leadership really starts coming out at Homecoming time when they first take charge as it becomes "their turn". I also notice the new staff members and our first year teachers, the looks on their faces are not that much different than the 4K students as new staff start their teaching years.

I hope you are able to enjoy the fall of the year as much as we enjoy the start of a new school year.

Todd Carlson – District Administrator

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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.

## Showing Gratitude

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November is typically the time of year when people give thanks for a whole host of occasions and tend to sit down to enjoy some form of fall harvest. As the school year continues to gear up into full swing, I think it is important to give thanks for the students, staff, and school community present in and around Gillett Secondary School. We have a lot of great things happening within our schools, and it is important to recognize all of the work which is put into creating such an environment.

We have talented students who help drive everything we do in our educational community. They are able to make decisions that best represent themselves and the Gillett community, and we should all take pride in the way these young men and women carry themselves throughout the community. Many of our students are very involved in our community through sports, clubs, jobs, and outside of school activities. Through all of this, they continue to put in exceptional work here at GSS to make our school a positive environment to be a part of every day. Take time to acknowledge their efforts at school and at home and thank them for all they do to make our community a better place to live.



In giving thanks, it should be noted how dedicated and caring our staff is of our students. We have a whole host of staff members who advise and coach beyond the call of duty in their roles as educators. The staff here continues to be positive, upbeat, friendly and focused throughout the school year. Not only do they rally around students and our community, they rally around each other, making Gillett Secondary School a school that often feels more like a second family than a group of coworkers. If you see a staff member at a sporting event, after school activity, or in the community, please be sure to recognize the amount of effort they put in making our buildings are a special place for our students.

It is also important to recognize the efforts of our School Board and the amount of time and thought which goes into the operations of our schools on a monthly basis. There are a number of committees operating outside of the monthly School Board meetings which help to inform the decisions and positive impact our Board has on our schools. They truly work with the community's best interests in mind and are able to provide our schools with the resources needed while maintaining a close and watchful eye on the bottom dollar.

Finally, I would like to personally thank the parents of our students. Without the time and effort you all have put in to ensure your sons and daughters feel supported, loved, and accepted at home and at school, we would not be able to do all of the wonderful things for your children here at GSS.

Thank you all for all you do for Gillett Secondary School,  
Jason Dreier – Secondary School Principal

## Staff Honored for Years of Service

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The Gillett School District is very fortunate to have many dedicated staff members who do great things every day for our students and our school. Each and every staff member deserves a big thank you! In this edition, we honor our staff with milestone years of service.

### 40 Years of Service

Cathy Wocking  
Secondary School Secretary



### 30 Years of Service

Jane Sabrowsky  
Middle School Teacher



### 25 Years of Service

Mike Collins  
Elementary Teacher

Pat Montie  
Elementary Teacher



### 15 Years of Service

Tammy Giese  
Kathleen Tracy

### 10 Years of Service

Matt Polomis

### 5 Years of Service

Cindy Beyer  
Barb Brodahl  
Jill Gamm  
Robin Nelson  
Nicole Soper

Thank you staff for your dedication to our students!

\*Some staff members may have more years of service at the Gillett School District but were employed by another agency while working at Gillett Schools.

## Help Offered Preparing for Post High School Education

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On November 2nd, Gillett High School has some great opportunities for students to get help with some post high school options. From 2-3:30, the NWTC Career Coach, Connie Jordan, and Mrs Parker, Guidance Counselor, will be offering the seniors the chance to take the Accuplacer test for FREE. The signup sheet is on the window outside the guidance office. Student will need his/her social security number. From 4-6 pm, Connie will be available to help students complete an NWTC college application and submit it for FREE. Also, from 6-7 pm, an NWTC Financial Aid expert will discuss the FASFA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and other scholarship opportunities.



## NHS Hosts Dodgeball Tournament

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**7th Annual**  
**GILLETT NHS**  
**DODGEBALL**  
**TOURNAMENT**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH**

Remember the 5 D's of Dodgeball:

- Dodge
- Duck
- Dip
- Dive
- Dodge

The Gillett High School National Honors Society, or NHS, is a group of Juniors and Seniors who are chosen through an application process based on academic and civic achievement. They work throughout the school and community to offer support and leadership. They meet regularly to plan and come up with new projects

Each year they sponsor a Dodgeball Tournament to help raise funds for the Christmas for Kids fund. This year's tournament is Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. The captains meeting will start at 8:30am with the first match starting at 9:00am. Fun will be had throughout the day. Registration papers can be picked up at school or found on the school's webpage.

Even if you can't dodge as well as you use to, spectators are encouraged to come

and support the players and the NHS's Christmas for Kids. Concessions will be available for purchase.

## What's New at the Elementary School?

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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.

### They Blinded Me With Science!

The introduction of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) has “upped the game” for science instruction at all grade levels, but definitely for elementary students. There is a larger focus on exposing students to engineering and other STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) areas. For years, we have met our science needs with the great hands-on units provided by the Einstein Project in Green Bay. Instead of using textbooks and reading about science, student learning about sound create their own musical instruments and study how sound waves work. Instead of watching a movie about ecosystems, students create their own living aquarium and terrarium, complete with live critters, and examine the impact of disruptions to a living environment.



Next school year, Gillett Elementary will be one of the first schools in the area to pioneer the new Einstein Units fully aligned with the NGSS, co-written by the Smithsonian Institute. Teachers will be trained this year, while still teaching our present units to our students. With all of the changes in education, hands-on learning and science will never go out of style.

### The Future Is Now

You may have heard of Academic Career Planning, or ACP, a new initiative at the middle and high school level. While Gillett Elementary doesn't officially use ACP, it doesn't mean we're not actively training our students for life after schooling.

This past spring, Junior Achievement and Huntington Bank joined forces to provide our students in grades 2-4 a program called “JA in a Day”, a full day of active learning about business, personal financial responsibility, and entrepreneurship. The lessons and volunteers don't come cheaply, and the good people at Huntington Bank provided both for us through their gracious donation of support and their own personal time in our classrooms.

In fifth grade, our teachers are busily instructing Junior Achievement's Biztown curriculum. This intensive program brings what students have learned in grades 2-4 to highly practical levels. As a culmination of these lessons, the fifth grade will travel to Milwaukee on December 12 to spend a day immersed in their learning at the JA BizTown Facility, where students will live out a day running businesses with the help of experienced adults. It's an amazing experience that we hope to continue as an ongoing tradition at Gillett Elementary School.

Curt Angeli – Elementary Principal



## Little Tiger Playgroup

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The Little Tiger Playgroup is a program offered at Gillett Elementary School that targets families with children ages Birth through 5-years-old. The purpose of the playgroup is to get the youngest members of the Gillett Community in the school to explore the Early Childhood/4k classroom, participate in age-appropriate crafts, and enjoy stories and songs. Playgroup also gives parents and guardians the chance to interact with Gillett staff and other parents. All children who attend playgroup must be accompanied by an adult.

Little Tiger Playgroup meets on select Wednesdays throughout the school year. Youngsters and their adults should come to the Elementary School from 1:30 to 2:45pm on Playgroup days.

The dates for this year are:

November 8 & 29

December 13

January 10 & 24

February 7 & 21

March 7 & 21

April 11 & 25

May 9

If you have any questions regarding the Little Tiger Playgroup please contact the District's 4k/Early Childhood teacher, Mrs. Pekarek. She can be reached by email at [lpekarek@gillett.k12.wi.us](mailto:lpekarek@gillett.k12.wi.us) or by phone at 920-855-2119.



## Gillett Welcomes Five New Educators

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When the school started this year, the school district had five new educators on staff. Pictured from left to right are Mr. Dreier, Mrs. Heroux, Miss Sanborn, Mrs. Pekarek, and Mrs. Grover. Mr. Dreier is the new Secondary School Principal. Mrs. Heroux serves the school as a Math Interventionist, Accelerated Learning Coordinator, and Marketing Coordinator. Miss Sanborn is the new Guidance Counselor in the Elementary building. Mrs. Pekarek teaches in the 4k and Early Childhood program. Mrs. Grover teaches 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This group comes in wealth of knowledge and experience to offer the district and the community and a desire to work hard. Welcome to Gillett!

# Homecoming Fun

