



# CLIFFORD REPORTS

JUNE — 2016

A Monthly PTA Newsletter for the Families and Staff of Gifford School

**GIFFORD SCHOOL**  
8332 Northwestern Avenue  
Racine, WI 53406

**Co-Directing Principal:**  
Mr. Les Hunt

**Co-Directing Principal:**  
Mrs. Mary Cline

Contact Numbers

Main Phone: 262-619-4550  
Attendance Line: 262-619-4598  
School Social Worker: 262-619-4576  
Nurse's Office: 262-619-4557  
School Lunch Room: 262-619-4582

2015-2016 PTA Officers

**President:**

Sheri Krenzke ● 262-995-3566

**Vice-President:**

Sara Delonay ● 616-405-8295

**Secretary:**

Nichole McDonald ● 262-497-1514

**CFO:**

Lori Strangburg ● 414-559-1113

**Treasurer:**

Amy Agallar ● 262-939-7192

Clifford Reports Newsletter

Article Submission by the 15th of each month to: Amy Axelson at [giffordschoolpta@gmail.com](mailto:giffordschoolpta@gmail.com)

Wisconsin State PTA Website: [www.wisconsinpta.org](http://www.wisconsinpta.org)

Gifford School Website: [www.rusd.org/gifford](http://www.rusd.org/gifford)



Join our email group for frequent volunteering and/or news updates: [giffordschoolpta@gmail.com](mailto:giffordschoolpta@gmail.com)



Join our Gifford Elementary PTA 'closed' FaceBook group.

\*All PTA meeting minutes are available upon request by emailing: [giffordschoolpta@gmail.com](mailto:giffordschoolpta@gmail.com)

## PRINCIPAL NEWS:

### A Letter From Your Principal, Les Hunt...

Dear Gifford Parents,

As we close this school year we are met with numerous questions about what the near future brings...well excitement for certain. The exterior of the new building is nearly complete, just some paving and landscaping left to be done. The interior of the building will receive serious renovation over the summer months. There will be no custodians, staff or administrators on site. If you need to contact us we will have offices at JA Middle School for the summer. You can leave voice messages at Gifford and they will be checked frequently. Only Riley construction will have access to the building.

While we do not have an official ribbon cutting ceremony planned as yet. Please watch your mailboxes, the Gifford Facebook page and Gifford twitter to the most current information.

Mr. Scott Campbell will be joining the administrative team for the coming year. He has most recently lead a Milwaukee Charter school and has experience in High school and Middle school leadership.

We have numerous new teachers joining us from around the school district to fill out our middle school staff, there will be numerous opportunities to meet them and welcome them to Gifford.

It will be difficult to say good-bye to Susan Page and Aileen Godshall as they leave us for retirement. Both with a long history within RUSD for providing quality instruction and preparing first graders for their futures.

The last few weeks of the school year are full of field trips and special events. Please stay aware of the school calendar, so you know when your little ones have an outing. June 7<sup>th</sup> is the final day of student attendance for this year. We regret that with the limitations of construction we are unable to have mother/son kickball and Field Day. Trust that those two events will be reinstated as the Gifford K-8 campus comes together.

Summer will pass quickly and we will soon be gearing up for a grand opening and welcoming many families back to Gifford and meeting new families as well.

-Les Hunt



# PTA NEWS:

## A Letter From Your 2015-16 PTA President, Sheri Krenzke...

As I wrap up my time as PTA President, I want to take this time to thank EVERYONE who has supported our PTA this year. As many of you know, I have been a parent and actively involved in PTA at Gifford for 9 years. My oldest is finishing up Gilmore this year moving on to Case next year. I've known how much our PTA does for Gifford, but after being a part of Gilmore's PTSA for the last 3 years, I have gained an even bigger appreciation for the impact Gifford's PTA makes on our school and community. When asked to help volunteer or help with something at school, it was the Gifford alumni who were always 1st to raise their hands at Gilmore. You see Gifford alumni mentoring elementary kids, volunteering both in and outside of school and raising the bar on achievement. Our Gifford PTA helped lay the foundation for those Gilmore students. We taught them the power of teamwork, communication, dedication and giving our time. What an irreplaceable gift we have given our current and former students.

Thank you to all 317 members for helping us:

- **Leverage Volunteer Power** - helping Gifford organize hard-working, dedicated volunteers
- **Communicate** - via the school newsletter, backpack mail, FaceBook, emails and good old fashion talking, we are keeping the entire school community informed of current events, issues, and accomplishments
- **See Measurable Results** - more than 85 research studies conducted over the past 30 years prove that kids do better when parents are involved. Grades are higher. Test scores improve. Attendance increases.
- **Self-fund** - Through membership, fundraisers, and collection programs we provided \$50,000 towards school programs and educational events this year.
- **Boost Children's Well-Being** - We partner with our school to ensure that our children succeed not only in their learning, but also in nutrition, health, school safety, physical fitness and general well-being.
- **Enjoy Each Other** - Involved parents understand the challenges schools face and become part of the solution. By developing a closer relationship with parents, student achievement improves, and Gifford continues to have the positive reputation it has in the community.

Whether it was attending carnival, participating in a fundraiser, sending in donations, clipping box tops, sharing good news with a fellow parent, volunteering time, attending a meeting, or chairing an event or activity... YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE!

Thank you for such a great year!

*Congratulations and Best Wishes to our 2016-17 Officers!  
You will do amazing things!*

### Introducing our 2016-2017 PTA Officers



**Miranda Rochol**  
President



**Missy Kwiatkowski**  
Vice President



**Jana Brown**  
Secretary



**Amy Agallar**  
CFO



**Lori Strangberg**  
Treasurer

Thank You!

*THANK YOU to our PTA Members for participating in the Election Process this month! We feel honored that you trust us to help lead the Gifford PTA organization!*

*Please watch for Surveys to be posted in the Facebook group and emailed out – we need your help to ensure that our 2016-2017 School Year is the most amazing ever!*

*Please help to thank our current PTA Officers for their leadership during the 2015-2016 School Year!!! Sheri Krenzke, President; Sara Deloney, Vice President; Nichole McDonald, Secretary; Lori Strangberg, CFO; Amy Agallar, Treasurer*

A HUGE Thank You  
to the following people for volunteering their time and/or talents.

**2016-2017 COMMITTEE CHAIRS** Thank you to everyone who chaired an event/activity this year. You are such a big reason Gifford is GREAT! ~Sheri Krenzke, 2015-16 PTA President

<b>ANNUAL AUDIT</b>	Lori Strangberg & Chad Krenzke
<b>2016-17 BUDGET</b>	Lori Strangberg
<b>GATORS 1ST FUND</b>	Lori Strangberg
<b>BOOK FAIR</b>	Kris Larsen
<b>FOLDER STUFFING</b>	Linda McGee & Allison Fritsche
<b>READING PROGRAMS</b>	Stacy Cervantes & Christy Maller
<b>SCIENCE CLUB</b>	Brett Halladay
<b>CARNIVAL</b>	Miranca Rochol
<b>CLIFFORD</b>	Tanya Wenzlaff
<b>POPCORN</b>	Jen Kumm
<b>STAFF APPRECIATION</b>	Missy Kwiatkowski
<b>YEARBOOK</b>	Suzanne Gelinsky
<b>COLLECTION PROGRAMS</b>	Nichole McDonald
<b>CORN ROAST</b>	Susan Sullivan, Mary Cline, & Sara DeLonay
<b>FALL FUNDRAISER</b>	Lindsay Willis, Debra Boedecker, & Rochelle Ehrhart
<b>GRAND RAFFLE</b>	Linda McGee & Debra Boedecker
<b>SCRIP</b>	Katherine Kostman, Stacie DiBlase, & Suzanne Gelinsky
<b>SPIRIT WEAR</b>	Kris Larsen
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	Gina Daniels
<b>NEWSLETTER</b>	Amy Axelson
<b>NOMINATING</b>	Sue Pena
<b>OPEN HOUSE</b>	Sara DeLonay
<b>FACEBOOK</b>	Allison Fritsche, Suzanne Gelinsky, & Sara DeLonay
<b>OUTDOOR SIGN</b>	Scott Strangberg
<b>FAMILY FUN NIGHTS</b>	
<b>SWAN'S PUMPKIN FARM</b>	Katherine Kostman
<b>HALLOWEEN DANCE</b>	Sara DeLonay
<b>CARDS FOR THE TROOPS</b>	Katherine Kostman & Sheri Krenzke
<b>POLAR EXPRESS</b>	Jen Kumm
<b>LEGO MOVIE</b>	Katherine Kostman
<b>DODGEBALL</b>	Jen Hein
<b>VALENTINE DANCE</b>	Jayette Kerkman, Sheri Krenzke, Lori Strangberg, & Sara DeLonay
<b>BINGO</b>	Jen Kumm
<b>PARTY ON THE PAVEMENT</b>	Jen Kumm

**2016-2017 EXECUTIVE BOARD** Thank you to our 2015-16 Executive Board. We had some long meetings, insightful discussions, a lot of email exchanges and also a really great time working together. Thank you for your dedication!

~Sheri Krenzke, 2015-16 PTA President

<b>SECRETARY</b>	Nichole McDonald
<b>CFO</b>	Lori Strangberg
<b>TREASURER</b>	Amy Agallar
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Sara Delonay
<b>3K—1ST GRADE</b>	Nicole Stangler & Sue Pena
<b>2ND—5TH GRADE</b>	Terri Russo & Jenn Bersch
<b>6TH—8TH GRADE</b>	May Cline
<b>EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS</b>	Cheryl Reaume
<b>FAMILY/SCHOOL SPIRIT</b>	Jen Kumm
<b>INCOME/FUNDRAISING</b>	Sarah Grycowski & Laurie Nikolic



# Thank You so much!

## STACIE DIBLASE, JEN GARITY, & JORDAN LUECK CARNIVAL RAFFLE BASKETS

"Thanks ladies for making this one of the most fun projects to work on! You each brought your different talents to the table and we pulled off a great raffle basket display for Carnival! I feel fortunate to have been a part of this group and glad to call you friends!"

~Jana Brown

## ALLISON FRITCHE & JANA BROWN CAKE WALK/BAKE SALE

"I would like to thank Allison Fritche and Jana Brown for their amazing job as my Cake Walk/Bake Sale Co-Chairs. It was so much fun and you guys totally knocked it out of the park! I was lucky to have you and I can't wait till next year!!!"

~Nichole McDonald

## COLLECTIONS HELPERS

"I would like to say thank you to all of the families who took the time to help with Box Tops and Campbells labels. Counting and bagging is such a big help and I appreciate all the time you put into it. Kris Powell Larsen, Katherine Kostman, Jordan Lueck, Krista Rider Larrabee, Jayne Thompson, Laura Matter, Terri Edmonston, Theresa Szabelski, Tanya Wenzlaff, Cheryl Reaume, Sarah Steimle Greening, Stacy Cervantes, The amazing "never say no" Dawn Sturm, and Becky Steinbach 's entire second grade class! And a special thank you to Jana Brown for all of the Coca Cola caps logged in!"

~Nichole McDonald

## SUE PENA, TJ KWIATKOWSKI, & TANYA WENZLAFF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

"Thank you Sue Pena, TJ Kwiatkowski and Tanya Wenzlaff for being the nominating committee this year. It is VERY time consuming working through all of the nominees, creating a ballot, and tallying votes. It is even more difficult keeping the whole process confidential during and after. You guys did a great and respectable job. Thank you!"

~Sheri Krenzke

## REBECCA STEINBACH

"Even though Rebecca Steinbach had my son as a student over 2 years ago I want to thank you for being the wonderful teacher that "believed" in my son!"

~Allison Fritsche

## KRIS LARSEN, BRETT HALIDAY, CHRISTY MALLER, & STACY CERVANTES EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

"Thank you to the Educational Program Committee Chairs for everything they did this year- Kris Larsen Bookfair, Brett Haliday Science Club, Christy Maller and Stacy Cervantes Reading Promotions. Thank you also to anyone who volunteered at the Bookfair!"

~Cheryl Reaume

## LOTS OF THANKS

"Thank you so much to all my helpers for the Family Fun "Party on the Pavement", we had great weather and a wonderful time! I especially wanted to thank Missy Kwiatkowski for helping with everything that night, TJ Kwiatkowski and Scott Strangberg for grilling, Nichole McDonald for the fun music, Cheryl Reaume, Lori Strangberg, and many others who helped with anything i threw at them! I would never been able to pull this off without all your help! Until next year..."

"Thanks to "Clifford" for being amazing again this year."

"Thanks to Missy Kwiatkowski and everyone who helped her and donated for Staff Appreciation Week. I couldn't believe how awesome that week was!"

"Thanks to Suzanne Gelinsky and all the Yearbook staff, the Yearbook looks wonderful!"

"Shout out to all of my subcommittee Chairs this year, YOU ROCKED IT!"

~Jen Kumm

## LINDA MCGEE GRAND RAFFLE

"Linda McGee did an AWESOME job on the Gifford Grand Raffle! Many hours spent on tallying tickets, going to the bank and organizing the incentives. Thank you for all your time and dedication to Gifford."

~Allison Fritsche



# Thank You!

## BRETT HALLADAY SCIENCE CLUB

"I would like to thank Brett Halladay for volunteering his time to teach 4th and 5th graders about Science. I've attended Science Club throughout the year and I've learned quite a bit myself! Thank you for all you do!"

~Allison Fritsche

## CHERYL REAUME & JENNIFER KUMM WRITER'S ROUNDTABLE

"Thank you so much for being my Dynamic Duo with the Writer's Roundtable Program. I appreciate you coming each month and organizing the other volunteers. You were always gracious and kind. I literally could not do this worthwhile program without you!"

~Terri Russo

## NICHOLE MCDONALD

"I would like to thank Nichole McDonald for all the work she does for Gifford School. She takes care of collections, Shoparoo, chaired Cake Walk at carnival, PTA Secretary, and helps out in many other areas. Gifford is very lucky to have you!"

~Allison Fritsche

## SUZANNE GELINSKEY & STACIE DIBLASE SCRIP

"I'd like to thank Suzanne Gelinskey and Stacie DiBlase for all their help this school year. I couldn't have done it without your assistance. You ladies Rock!!!"

~Katherine Kostman

## HUGS & HIGH FIVES

"Thank you to all of the kids and staff for another awesome year! I loved all of the hugs and high fives I received this year and can't wait to see everyone back in the fall! Have an Awesome summer!"

~Clifford

## YEARBOOK TEAM

"A huge thanks to the Yearbook Team - Kris Larsen, Emma Krenzke, Dawn and Nicholas Sturm, Tammy and Amy Haagenen. There were many others who weren't 'officially' on the team, but were a big help - Amy Adelson, Cynthia Peterson, Mrs. Cline, Mr. Hunt. Also, a big thanks to all those that submitted pictures, the teachers who allowed us in their classrooms to take pictures, and the 4th and 5th grade students who helped me check for the misprinted books!"

~Suzanne Gelinskey

## GRAND RAFFLE THANK YOU'S

Grand Raffle committee is finally done for 2016. We made about \$18,000 to help support the Gifford PTA's budget. We just completed the last of the incentives for the kids so we are now completely done with it all. I'd like to send out a number of well deserved Thank You's.

I'd like to start by thanking ALL of the families that sold at least one pack of tickets. We had about 400 kids that sold at least one pack.

I would like to thank the staff and Principals at Gifford for all their patience and help during our 5 weeks of selling. We couldn't do this each year without the support of the staff and Principals.

Thank you to the parents that came in and counted tickets and money day after day after day; Tanya Wenzlaff, Kris Larsen, Debra Boedecker, and Allison Fritsche.

I also would like to send a personal thank you to Laurie Nikolic, Sarah Grycowski, Allison Fritsche, and Debra Boedecker for being part of the planning and execution of it all.

And last but certainly not least, a big thank you to the businesses that supported the raffle either through donating an item for the raffle ticket or donating towards the incentives we offered to the kids. The businesses are; Yummy Froyo, Marcus Theatre, Upscale Limousine and Sedan Service, Rasmussen Diamonds, Immaculate Edge Painting, and Hallman Lindsay.

~Linda McGee

## JENNIFER WUTT

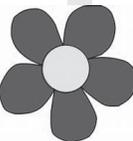
"I would like to thank Jennifer Wutt for making my son's 4th grade year a great one!"

~Allison Fritsche

## TO THE PTA

"Thank you for the flowers sent and the support offered upon the loss of my Mother. Your kind words and thoughtfulness were greatly appreciated."

~Suzanne Gelinskey



## MAY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



### WRITER'S ROUNDTABLE

Our final Writer's Roundtable of the 2015-2016 school year was held in the Science/Social Studies Lab, on Thursday, May 5, 2016. The budding authors shared their original writing with their peers. Some topics included fictional stories, A Day in the Life of a..., Splat the Cat, Our 5 Senses, and favorite characters. A big, warm thank you to Cheryl Reaume, and Jennifer Kumm for being my co-coordinators this school year. I could not have done this program without you both! See you next year! ~Mrs. Russo

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade-

(Rm 53) Natalie Sowinski, Grant Prince  
 (Rm 54) Tyler Giron, Shiloh Prince, Kathryn Kovacik  
 (Rm 55) Eva Motley, Clayton Fliess, Dakori Johnson-Hayes  
 (Rm 63) Audiana Graan, Dario Espindola, Camereron Bongiovanni  
 (Rm 64) Jakobe Zirzanek, Piper Coulter, Ayden Rattle, Max Kubiak  
 (Rm 68) Aden Coult, Nevaeh Tcheordikian, Talon Molina

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade-

(Rm 20) Anthony Cupertino, Kenadee Lueck  
 (Rm 21) Image Schingeck, William Cody  
 (Rm 58) Anthony Jacoby, Trinity Poltrock  
 (Rm 59) Brianne Larson, Alexis Sargent  
 (Rm 60) Aleksandra Zamecnik, Rilley Marquez

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade-

(Rm 25) Monica Camara, Jayden DiBlase, Muhammad Hammad, Addisen Prince, Brooke Rohde  
 (Rm 26) Sakinah Thomas, Gabe Torres  
 (Rm 29) Ella Cutts, Gavyn Willing  
 (Rm 61) Andrew Caira, Lilly Mc Call-Burke



#### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade-

(Rm 38) Adam Ries  
 (Rm 42) Brooklyn Johnson, Nolan Retzlaff  
 (Rm 43) Shakiah Clay

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade-

(Rm 40) Kaleb Steinmetz,  
 (Rm 33) Tristin Witt, Leah Hansen  
 (Rm 44) Josie Harris, Grace Gross  
 (Rm 35) Annabelle Brahm, Zoe Tiefenbacher



# SCHOOL NEWS:

Relay Recess was a huge success! Gifford School was able to donate \$4679.42 to the American Cancer Society! It was an amazing event, thank you to everyone who participated! -Stephanie Naegeli



## 5TH GRADE NEWS:

Camp Timber-lee was a great time for the fifth grade thanks to all our volunteers.

Thank you to all of the people who came out to camp; especially our brave chaperones who spent three days with us. Also thank you to everyone who helped with fund raising, which made the camp affordable. It was a little wet, but the rain didn't damp the memories we made. - Scott Sauder



### Scrip News!

I want to personally thank all you scrip buyers this year. Your continued support in the Scrip program has made it our best scrip profit year with just about \$3000 in profit (goal was \$1000) that goes directly to help our PTA support programs that enhance experiences for our kids and teachers here at Gifford. If you want to continue to support the scrip program over the summer months you can reload current cards or get cards online and the profits still will be deposited into our account. It's really easy to sign up. Please use the instructions (below) then contact me with your code so I can quickly approve so you can start scrip shopping. Next year's Scrip goal is \$3000 so I look forward to my repeat customers and to pick up many new ones. Will it be YOU? I hope so. Watch the PTA Facebook page the end of July for a Scrip "Back to School" flash sale (contest perhaps?). Don't buy school supplies/clothes without using a scrip card! If you need a bulk of cards you can call/text me at **262-909-7252** to place an order. Have a great summer. Katherine



### Scrip Contest!

Scrip "Kickin' off Summer" Contest classroom winners are:

- #1 Room 22 \$1940 WOW!
- #2 Room 19 \$965
- #3 Room 63 \$760

These 3 classrooms will be enjoying **ICE CREAM** for snack! Yum!!

## GIFFORD ELEMENTARY June 2016

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS CALENDAR

Main Office: 619-4550 Attendance Line: 619-4598 Lunch Rm: 619-4582

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>F-Day</i>  <i>Kindergarten &amp; 1st Milwaukee Zoo</i> <i>2nd Grade Franksville Park</i>	2 <i>A-Day</i>  <i>Speech &amp; Ice Cream Social 2:00</i> 	3 <i>B-Day</i>  <i>4th &amp; 5th Grade Musical 7:00</i> 	4 <i>C-Day</i>  <b>School Spirit Day</b> <i>Show your Gator pride!</i> <i>Wear your school colors (royal blue) or spirit wear!</i>
5	6 <i>C-Day</i>  <i>2nd Grade Milwaukee Zoo</i> <i>5th Grade Kids Connection</i>	7 <i>D-Day</i>  <b>Last Day of School</b> 	8	9	10	11



*Have a Great Summer!*