

Volume 29 Issue 3

Gilmanon Schools

Panther Post

Principal's Page

The school year is quickly nearing the midpoint of the calendar year already. At the end of semester one, students at the high school will be completing class finals, while the elementary students are working hard and hoping for some snow to play in at recess. It is also that time to start planning for the 2012-13 school year and to discuss changes that will be occurring.

At the high school this academic year, class splits were phased out of the master schedule due to smaller class sizes. An example of a class split is when we had two sections of English for one grade level. Eliminating class splits has created more flexibility in the master schedule – allowing high school teachers to teach grades 8-12 in the core subjects, and creating some new opportunities for middle school teachers.

Budget cuts have been the topic in many districts statewide and Gilmanon is no exception. We will again be working with reduced funding from the state for the 2012-13 school year – down even further than in 2011-12. To meet these challenges, the district is currently preparing for one less staff member. When the district filled the elementary position for this school year, we stated we may have one less teaching position the following year. Adjustments previously made to the master schedule will then allow for the fifth grade to move to the high school building for the 2012-13 school year. Two middle school teachers will teach most courses for grades 5-7.

Our dedicated staff members have made combined classrooms a very good option for our children. For the 2012-13 school year, we are planning for a combined classroom of grades 1 and 2 and also grades 3 and 4, with three teachers covering the coursework. The 3/4 combined classroom will have a total of 21 students while grades 1/2 will have 17 students. This leaves a good student to teacher ratio when you factor in the third teacher.

Some people may ask, why reduce an elementary position versus a high school position? One reason is because teaching licenses only cover cer-

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tain grade levels. High school teaching licenses can range from grades 6-12 and elementary licenses can range from PK-K, or K-6, or K-8. All license ranges vary due to the university attended, major of study, or college options during the year of enrollment. High school teaching licenses cover many grades at the high school building and are needed to teach core subjects. The second reason is because the incoming elementary classes are smaller and this allows for the continuation of combined classrooms. Gilmanon teachers are experienced in this classroom setup and they maintain high state test scores. Plus, an elementary classroom would be available when teachers split the combined classes and teach a single grade level for some subjects. At the high school there is ease of shared teaching staff, more computer options, and more room available. Finally, the change that brought the sixth grade to the high school three years ago was successful, and we will likewise implement a plan to make these additional changes positive as well for our students.

In ending, change is never easy for people in their personal lives or at their place of employment. But a key ingredient to making anything successful is a positive attitude. The staff members at Gilmanon are proud and want to see Gilmanon Schools be successful. They will put forth a positive attitude and hard work ethic and make these changes positive for our children.

Senior Information

- Seniors: Be sure to complete your Wisconsin Covenant paperwork if you signed the pledge in 8th grade. You would have received this letter in the mail at your home.
- Nelson Telephone Cooperative is offering ten scholarships for \$500 each to graduating students. The recipients are selected by a random drawing at the Annual Membership Meeting which is scheduled for Monday, April 2, 2012 at Durand High School. Applicants must be present to win. To be eligible, your parents or guardians must be a member of the Nelson telephone cooperative. Applications are available in the office and must be completed prior to March 16, 2012.
- Wisconsin Cattlemen and Cattlewomen Scholarship is available to any high school senior enrolled or planning to enroll in post-secondary institution. Applicants must have a background in the beef, veal, or dairy industry. Preference may be given to those attending a Wisconsin school and those majoring in an agriculture-related field. The application deadline is February 27, 2012.
- College Goal Sunday (Sunday, February 19th, 2012 at 2pm) is an event where parents and students can receive free assistance to complete their FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). This is the financial aid form that all colleges/universities require to be considered for federal and state financial aid (including grants, work study, loans, and scholarships). This event is held at 2 pm at Chippewa Valley Technical College on Sunday, February 19th, 2012. You do not need to register for this event. Park in lot P1 or P9 and enter the front door of the Business Center of CVTC.

Library News

The Gilmanton Elementary students are enjoying some upgraded technology in the way that they can check out books. Because it was necessary for us to have a general library in the elementary building (besides the collections in each room), we now have a computer and scanner in the hallway, and the students are able to check out their own books. All of the books in that 'mini-library' have been entered into the Alexandria system and bar-coded; the students can check out books by scanning their own personal barcode and then the barcode on the book.

The books in that library are not supposed to be Accelerated Reading books. That means that we will probably see a decline in the total number of AR tests taken at the end of the year, but it doesn't mean that the students are reading less than they were before. This year is going fast, and it won't be long before we need to be planning an end-of-the-year AR reading party again!

Another change for our district is that Mary Kinne, who is the librarian at the Mondovi School District, has replaced Linda Windjue of Eleva/Strum to fill our state-certified librarian position. Linda retired at the end of last year, and we wish her the best. Mary will be making the same scheduled visits to Gilmanton to help with library issues or concerns, and is hired by our school district through CESA 10.

There are major changes taking place for libraries with the introduction of the Kindles, Nooks, and iPads, but they probably won't be a factor here because of the cost. But... if the prices come down, as they have in other areas of technology (consider the old adding machines), they might become feasible in the future. The main thing is to do whatever we need to keep those kids reading!

MAPS Testing

During the weeks of January 30-February 17, 2012, students will be taking tests called Measure of Academic Progress™ (MAP). This is a new initiative in Gilmanton, and is a method of testing different from the Wisconsin state testing that was given last fall. While state tests give a final score and schools can be compared to each other, MAP tests will be used solely by our school to identify progress as well as areas of needs for an individual student in the areas of reading, math and language. Students will take the tests on a computer.

MAP tests are unique in that they adapt to be appropriate for a child's level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. And with MAP tests, we can administer shorter tests and use less class time while still receiving detailed, accurate information about a child's growth. During the testing week, students will spend a total of about 3 one-hour sessions completing these tests.

Each school year, students in grades one and two take the tests in reading and math, and grades three through ten take the tests in reading, math and language. Following each testing period, parents can see a report showing a child's growth and teachers will use the data to guide instruction.

We are truly excited to begin a new era that focuses on every child's individual growth and achievement. Partnering to help all kids learn, parents and teachers can have a profound positive effect on the lives of our children.

For more information on resources for parents, download the **Parent Toolkit** at <http://www.nwea.org/sites/www.nwea.org/files/resources/ParentToolkit.pdf>.

The School District of Gilmanton does not discriminate against pupils on the basis of sex, race, national origin, religion, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or handicap in its education programs or activities.

Families and Students in Transition

Do you know a student or family that may be in need of assistance? Many families in Wisconsin have found themselves to be families in transition without a place to call home. Our school district is committed to assisting all homeless students receive the best education possible. The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth (twenty-one years of age and younger) as:

Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes children and youth who are:

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as double-up);
- living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative, adequate accommodations;
- living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- abandoned in hospitals; or
- awaiting foster care placement.

Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.

Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

If you are personally aware of or are acquainted with any children who may qualify according to the above criteria,

Please contact Kory Rud, Homeless Liaison for the Gilmanton School District for additional information about the educational rights of homeless students. Mr. Rud can be reached at 715/946-3158.

All information will be kept confidential.

Note:

This year the Independence-Gilmanton baseball season will be held during the spring instead of the summer!

Gilmanton Schools

Superintendent: Glen Denk
PK-12 Principal: Kory Rud
Guidance Counselor: Amy Frieburg
Athletic Director: Todd Pozarski
Panther Post Editor: Courtney Bork
Panther Post Adviser: Julie Kacures

When you turn 18 all men are required to register with Selective Service.

Visit your local Post Office or www.sss.gov within 30 days of your 18th birthday. If you do not register you are breaking the law and cannot qualify for federal student grants or loans for college, job training benefits, and many state and federal jobs.

Sponsors Needed

Yes, I'm Interested!

NAME & PHONE NUMBER:

DONATION ENCLOSED:

A special newspaper supplement honoring the 100 Year Anniversary of Gilmanton High School is being planned.

We are looking for people interested in being sponsors to help defray the cost of publication.

If you would like to make a small monetary donation for this purpose, please call 715-946-3158, email *contact.us@ghs.k12.wi.us*, or mail in this form to the above address.

Mail to:

GHS

PO Box 28

Gilmanton, WI 54743

Thank You

Gilmanton Elementary Staff,

Thank you so very much for the beautiful floral arrangements at Thanksgiving. We truly appreciated your thoughtfulness and kindness. We really feel we get so much more out of volunteering at the Elementary than what we give.

Thank you so much.

You are all incredible teachers!

Sincerely yours,

Betty Quarberg

Virginia Knudtson

Gilmanton High School

100

Years 1911-12 ~ 2011-12

The 2011-2012 school year marks the 100 year anniversary of the Gilmanton High School. In 1922, Morris Thompson, a graduate of Gilmanton, wrote a 1911-1922 history of the high school, which follows. We have added a few historical photos to go along with the story.

1911-1922 History of the Gilmanton High School

by Morris Thompson

When Mr. Houser of Mondovi was in political life it was suggested to him by the state officers of public instruction at Madison that Gilmanton would be an ideal location for a township high school, and that the community should have one. The advantages of such a high school and how to secure one were explained to him at Madison for him in turn to explain to the people of Gilmanton. Not long after, Mr. Houser notified some of the people of Gilmanton interested in education that he had something to talk to them about, and wanted them to meet him at the hotel. At this meeting a number of our interested citizens were given the first idea of a township high school for Gilmanton and much interest and enthusiasm was aroused. It was explained to them how these high schools were given a very liberal state aid, and how the burden would be but little more than paying tuition to outside schools. To overbalancing this, would be the advantage to the community of every boy and girl having the chance to get a high school education which would not be possible if they must attend a school away from home. Mr. Ray Loomis became a very enthusiastic booster for a high school for Gilmanton and secured the necessary number of signatures, petitioning the Town Board to call a special election to vote upon the question, "Shall Gilmanton have a High School?"

Mr. Loomis presented the petition to Mr. G. Davie, then Chairman of the Town of Gilmanton, and the town board officially called a special meeting of the voters of the town. On the day of the special meeting Mr. Larson, Township High School Inspector, spoke both in the forenoon, and the afternoon on the advantages of a Township High School for Gilmanton, how to organize one, and about the liberal state aid being appropriated for such schools. After his afternoon talk the question was voted upon and carried by a big majority. This memorable date in 1911 shall ever be remembered as the official birth of our now well established Gilmanton High School. At the same meeting, and immediately after the carry of the vote to have a high school, the first school board was elected as follows: Nic Hanseman, Pres., Ray Loomis, Sec., E.A. Kenyon, Treas. As there was but a short time left during that summer before September, immediate action on the part of the Board of Education was very necessary, and they started at once on the big task before them.

Acting upon High School Inspector Larson's recommendation of Mr. A. S. Wells for the principalship of our new high school the board awarded the first principal's contract to Mr. Wells, who came here soon after to take up his duties. Even though the voters voted for a high school, there still remained another requirement to be met before a high school was assured, and that was the enrolling of twenty-five students or more. Consequently, Mr. Well's first work was to interest as many students as possible; and he with Mr. Loomis canvassed the territory tributary to Gilmanton and interviewed all students eligible for entrance into the high school, secured the necessary number and satisfied that requirement by the state. Miss Mabel Bahr was secured as Mr. Wells' assistant to teach English and History.



"Where to house the newly organized high school?" was the next question, but thanks to the help of District No. 1, one large room and two small rooms were rented on the second floor of the present graded school building at a very nominal charge. The beginning of school saw hardly enough chairs and seats to seat the students. And it was not until later that fall when the first laboratory equipment, supplies, and books for the library were received, so we can well realize that the students having the honor of being the first to attend Gilmanton High did not have the excellent facilities we have enjoyed this year. Fred Litchfield and LaVerne Forrest who completed the first three

years of their high school course at Mondovi were the first seniors, and were the first two students to graduate. The next year found Mr. Wells back as principal, but his assistant Miss Bahr had decided to share Mr. Well's home duties instead of his school duties so came back to us next September as Mrs. Wells.

Her position in our History and English department was filled by Miss Carrie Peckham. Mr. Wells not being athletically inclined, we do not find our Alma Mater being represented in any athletics during his stay; but we shall ever remember of Mr. Wells as the first principal of the Gilmanton High School; a very capable man, and very well liked. His hobby was electricity, and in our Physics laboratory can still be found a few parts of some electrical instruments he made. Today he is connected with the Julius Andres Electrical Co. of Milwaukee.

William Gluesing, now a junior in the College of Engineering of our State University at Madison was the only graduate that year.

Following Mr. Wells, we have Mr. Carl Robinson, who came to us from La Crosse Normal. He was assisted by Miss Sigrid Esbenson whose home was then at Osseo. Nothing unusual happened that year and we find that again the Gilmanton High School Senior Class had a class roll of but one, the graduating honor going to Blanche LaDuke, now Mrs. Luhrsen of this village.

For the next year 1914-15 the personnel of the school board was Nic Hanseman Pres., P.J. Hutchinson, Sec., and Christ Gluesing, Treas. The first three years of the new school just completed showed steady growth, and a demand for a Domestic Science Course. The establishment of a full Domestic Science Course for the girls to offset the Agricultural Course for the boys began a new epoch in its history. A third teacher was added to the force because of the adding of the new course, and we find Mr. Robinson, Prin., Miss Golden Ward, English and History, and Miss Gladys Ward, Domestic Science, guided the students that year in their

search for knowledge. The first Gilmanton High School boys' basketball team was organized that year and had among its players, Henry Gunderson, George Larson, Jason Cody, Irvin Brinkman, and Edward Gluesing. Though the team was not as successful as some of our later teams, to them belongs the honor of being our first athletes. Consistent with the growth of our enrollment the number of graduates increased, and we find Geo. Larson, Ruby Sund, Lelia Loomis, Helen Loomis, Vivian Clark, and Lucille Loomis, seven in all graduating that beautiful day in June 1915.

After two years as principal, Mr. Robinson decided to change schools and went to Tripoli as principal. To fulfill his place, the Board of Education secured Mr. Williams of River Normal as principal, who with Golden and Gladys Ward here for their second year constituted the faculty for the school year 1915-1916. The school competed in basketball of this year having both a boys' and girls' team. The girls' team under Miss Gladys Ward's coaching; Florence Noble, Josephine Engler, Olivia Glanzman, Edna Farner, and Alma Glanzman made a very good record winning all of their games. Commencement Day found the following six seniors receiving their diplomas: Hendry Gunderson, Edward Gluesing, Edna Farner, Olivia Glanzman, Alma Glanzman and Josephine Engler.



Mr. C. D. Loomis and Mr. L. A. Larson were elected to Mr. Gluesing and Mr. Hutchinson's places on the board. An entirely new faculty was secured to begin school anew. Wallace J. Landry, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin was our new principal, and was assisted by Miss Ethel Whitmore, graduate of Lawrence College for English and History, and Miss Gladys Condie from Stout Institute for Domestic Science. During his university career, Mr. Landry held places on the different athletic teams and brought to us a new life in basketball. His first year here found our boys winning half of their games, and much interest created. That year Hilda Schultz was the only graduate.



For the school year 1917-18, only Mr. Landry returned, and the assistant positions were filled by Miss Esther Hayter from Lawrence College, and Miss Lillian McDermott from Stout Institute. That year shall be remembered as the first year of having a strong basketball team which was selected as one of the teams to compete at the Eau Claire Tournament. In March of that year Mr. Landry left to enter the army and Miss Hayter and Miss McDermott finished the year with half day sessions. The largest class in the history of the Gilmanton High School graduated that year, fifteen in all: Alice and Hattie Gluesing, Edwin and Alice Fluke, Cecelia Lubinsky, Cora Larson, Mabel Deetz, Ezra Hutchinson, Ann Loomis, Alma Kaste, Agnes Loomis, Orlando Clark, Arthur Farner, Iva Loomis and Mildred Lunderville.

The year of 1919-20 found the faculty the same except that Miss Cora Bietling held the principalship. The flu interrupted the school so often that no outside activities such as basketball or class play were given that year. Florence Ruf was our only graduate.

When school opened in September 1919 Mr. Landry was with us again, and was assisted by Miss Esther Boergkamp of Lawrence College, and Miss Katherine Jansen of Stout Institute.

A new state requirement made it necessary to carry on our agricultural course during eleven months. To comply with the state requirement and uphold the standard of our school, our agricultural course was extended over the summer months of June and July, and has since continued so. Again our basketball teams were very successful and competed at the Eau Claire Tournament. George Gunderson, Bertha Davis, Edgar Goodermote, Dennison Loomis, Henry Scholdtfeldt, Jason Cody and Ellsworth Ramsey graduated May 27 as the class of 1920. The enrollment increased so much that there was very little available space in the crowded rooms of the graded school building and Prin. Landry began his campaign for a new building. He kept the question before the people by newspaper articles, and gradually interested more and more of the people of this town.

On June 28, 1920 at the regular annual meeting it was voted by a 30 to 7 vote to purchase a site and build a new high school building. Mr. Hanseman, Pres. Of the Board of Education was not a candidate for re-election, and his place was filled by Mr. Frank Deetz, who is still in office. But few school buildings have been built without some opposition, and ours was no exception to the rule. An injunction was taken out opposing the building of a new high school. But the question was finally settled by a special meeting on Sept. 16, 1920, which resulted in a 217 to 113 vote to not rescind the vote to build. A building committee consisting of the school board, Mr. B.U. Ayres, and Mr. B. B. Phillips immediately took up the new task. Mr. J. Hancock of Eau Claire was the architect, and Mr. Simmons of Mpls., the contractor. Building operations were begun early in April of the next spring, and 1920-21 marked the last and tenth year in the crowded rooms of the graded school.

During the last year in the first home of the Gilmanton High School, Mr. Landry was assisted by Miss Ruth Jegi of the La Crosse Normal, and Miss Amelia Hankel of Stout Institute. A little after the beginning of school, Mr. Larson, Treas. of the board resigned on account of expecting to spend the winter in the west, and his place was filled by Mr. W.H. Gumbert, who is the present treasurer. Again our basketball teams were very successful, the boys' team being exceptionally strong, winning 14 out of 15 games. This year marked our first real competition in stock judging and our team on Dec. 10, 1920 won first over Mondovi and Durand: and took fourth in the state contest in Madison on Feb. 5, 1921. On June 3, 1921 Fredrick

Sund, William Sund, Lewis Brinkman, Ruth Loomis, Wilma Farner Walter Farner, Wilman Henseman, Elaine Jost, Elfreda Bielfeldt, Loris Bielfeldt, and Carl Larson graduated as the last class from the graded school building, making the total number from that building 53.

The summer of 1921 was a memorable one for it shall always be remembered as the summer when our present grand building was built. The opening week of school last fall was spent in the graded school building and on Monday, Sept. 19, 1921 all high



school students experienced the great and glorious feeling of reporting for the first time in their grand new home just completed. The class of 1925 enjoys the distinction of being the first freshman class, and we, the class of 1922, have the honorable distinction of being the first senior class to graduate from our new home. Miss Sylvia Gnewikow of the University of Wis. And Miss Esther Scheurle of Stout Institute have very ably assisted Prin. Landry during the past year. Our gymnasium was opened to the public with a double victory over the Nelson High School teams on Nov., 4, 1921, and has been a very popular part of our building. Again our stock judging team was victorious over the Mondovi, Cochrane, Arkansaw and Durand High School teams, represented this district at Madison on March 17th. Deeds have made history since the beginning of time, and it is by the actual deeds that our school has been making history which we shall ever be proud of and which is making it favorably known to more and more people each year. So from a school with little more than its name and twenty five students eleven years ago the Gilmanton High School has reached the high achievement of being one of the strongest high schools in the county, and having one of the most modern and well equipped building in this part of the state, for which very much credit is due to the tax payers of this town.

Including the seven graduates, Leland Forrest, Olive Hanseman, Gladys Hutchinson, Marguerite Britten, Lettie Smith, Josephine Iverson, and Morris Thompson of the present graduating class 59 have graduated, 35 girls and 24 boys; and it shall ever be our ambition to continue making history for the Gilmanton High School that you, I, and all others interested in its welfare, growth, achievement and benefits to the community, state, and nation may well feel justly proud of.

(Original document was typed for Morris Thompson by Mrs. Danford Loomis, who worked with her husband in the Gilmanton Bank. It was possibly the only typewriter in Gilmanton at the time.)