

It has been an exciting spring already at Gilbert! We have opened our new stadium with our first ever competition, a boy's and girl's soccer match. It was very gratifying to see the lights glowing in the distance and knowing that this will be the home for many more athletic competitions to come. We would love to have alumni come to our games either this spring or next fall to see our new athletic facilities.

We also had our third production in the new auditorium when our high school students put on the play *The Election* this past weekend. The play was very humorous and showcased the technology now available to us with this facility. We also had our first ever middle school musical "*Annie, Jr.*" in March. Over seventy five middle school students participated, doing everything necessary, including lights and sound, in front of an audience of five hundred. We look forward to more and more events such as these. We invite our alumni back for these events as well. Just check the school's website for upcoming events at gilbert.k12.ia.us.

We received some exciting news when our high school building was nominated to be a Blue Ribbon School. This is a national award and we are anxiously awaiting word after filling out the application. We have also begun our 1:1 initiative at the middle school, which has been very positive. We will be giving our high school students their own Chromebooks in the fall and anticipate the same success there as we have had in the middle school. The district was also very proud when we received the numbers on our test scores for Iowa Assessments. Our students and staff worked very hard to be prepared for the tests, and it showed! We met all of the goals at the various levels for the year. We have also been chosen as one of thirty nine schools to receive the Teacher Leadership Compensation Grant. This is a new project from the state to provide teacher leaders to help improve instruction throughout the district. We will keep the public posted as we go through the implementation of this grant.

It was with great sorrow that we said goodbye to Mrs. Nancy Peterson in January. As you are well aware, Nancy was the high school history and government teacher and had been on the faculty for thirty years. Her dedication to her students and the Gilbert community are legendary, and we miss her still. Many of you sent condolences or came to her service and for that we are grateful. We will be honoring her memory at commencement with the Nancy Peterson Memorial Scholarship, which is being managed by the Gilbert Education Foundation.