



Clark County School District

**Your
PTA Newsletter!**

Gilbert Magnet School for Communication and Creative Arts

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Letter from the President Greetings, Fellow Giraffe Parents!

Hey, there, everyone. With Spring on the horizon and more than half the school year past, I feel relieved and pleased that so many of our programs have gone well this year. Though we have a few things left to accomplish, the bulk is behind us and we can relax and enjoy what is left to do.

We have had a very successful Recycled Readables with almost 4000 books turned in! By the time you read this, we will have redistributed the books and probably have completed Caught Ya Reading. These projects, which coincide with Nevada Reading Week, are my favorites every year. I love reading!!! I hope you and your children enjoy it as well.

We will be electing officers for the new year in the month of April. Please let us know whether you would like to be considered for a board position. We will be sending out an interest form shortly so be looking for it in backpacks near you. Our next meeting will be April 1 at 3:21 p.m.

Thanks to all who have sent in their "Go Play" Labels from Nestle. We are processing them now and should be able to redeem them for some great equipment for our P. E. classes soon. Please make every effort to keep saving and sending in the labels. We will need 16,000+ labels to order what we would like Ms. Murray to have next year.

I hope to see you at Family Math Night, Wednesday, March 25. We will be sending out ticket order forms for the pasta dinner (served 5-6 p.m.) soon. Our wonderful teachers have some great activities planned so we all hope you will join us.

Thanks!!!!

Janet Lenox

Gilbert Magnet School PTA President (lenox4@cox.net)



Upcoming Events

APRIL

PTA Officer Election
(Candidates Welcome!)

Fourth Grade Camping Trip
(stay tuned for details)

SPRING BREAK
April 6th - April 10th

Take Your Child To Work Day
April 23rd



MAY

Teacher Appreciation Week
May 4th - May 8th

Spring Matinee
May 30th

For more information please watch for flyers in your child's backpack or visit the Gilbert PTA website...
www.gilbertpta.org.

GILBERT PTA NEEDS YOU!

Anyone can join PTA at anytime. Please get involved!

Homework Strategies for Busy Families

(excerpt from National PTA Parent Newsletter)

Today's families are busier than ever. Meal preparation and clean-up; music lessons; sports practices; and games, chores, and more often squeeze "quality time" for relationship building to a couple of hours or less each evening. Helping your children with their homework may seem like another task that takes up too much time. Fortunately, homework is something that can be managed creatively, reducing the amount of time spent on it while increasing its effectiveness and the sense of connection you have with your children.

Make homework a shared activity

People often describe the same experience very differently. The same is true of learning. One child will read and remember story details. Another child may not focus on the story's names, dates, and places, but will see relationships and themes instead. Others will see possibilities, practical applications, or outcomes. When these children study together, they can see their assignments from different viewpoints. It encourages them to seek understanding rather than just get through the assignment. It empowers them to ask questions in class if they know other children are confused, too.

Studying with others sends a message that learning is important—that individually, our children want to succeed and that collectively, we support one another.

Friends as study partners. Invite your child's friends over so they can do homework together. Don't be afraid to join in these study sessions from time to time. When you do, ask the students to explain their answers—encouraging them to explore their reasoning helps them learn their assignments more thoroughly. It's all right to let them digress periodically, as long as they get their work done. It makes learning more enjoyable.

Family members as study partners. Two-parent households can optimize their total "together" time by sharing responsibilities for homework, evening chores, and child care. Older brothers and sisters can tutor younger children. The sooner homework and chores are done, the more time the entire family can spend together in conversation or recreational activities.

Make the most of homework time

Study the unknown. Students often spend hours studying from a textbook, but most of their time is spent reviewing what they already know rather than studying what they don't know. Divide material to be learned into two stacks: that which they already know, and that which they need to learn. Have them study only what they don't know for 5–15 minutes. Wait 2–24 hours; mix the material up, and divide it again.

Busy families often feel overwhelmed by the demands of modern life. Homework may seem like just another obstacle to quality family time. The best strategy for tackling homework is to use study time efficiently and, most importantly, get help from available resources. There is a whole world out there waiting to support us in educating our children.

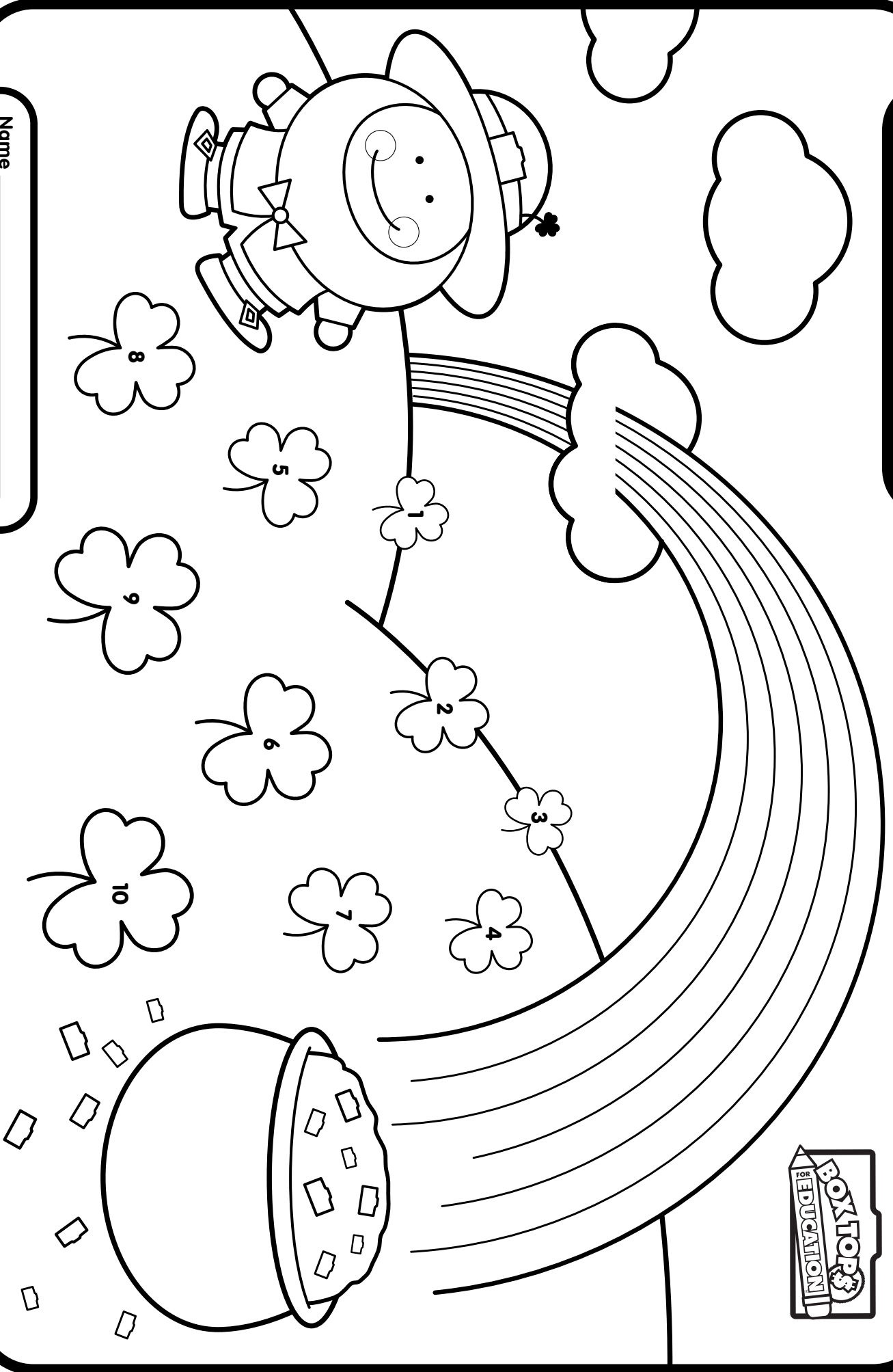
Sharon Marshall Lockett is director of Educational Innovations/SCORE, a national cocurricular support program. She can be reached at sharon@homesweethomework.com.

GILBERT MAGNET SCHOOL: Head & Shoulders Above The Rest!



BOX TOPS UPDATE - The most recent turn-in day for Box Tops was 02/28/09. We sent in \$320 worth that day, which means we'll get a check in May for that amount. Because Gilbert students and their families have been so good about clipping those little box-top things from so many different products, YOU have helped Gilbert earn \$912!!! **THANK YOU - and keep it up!!!**

**Box Tops are as good
as gold for your school!**



Name _____
Grade _____
Teacher's Name _____

Thank you for helping! Every Box Top you collect is worth 10¢ for your school.
For more collection worksheets and projects, go to www.boxtops4education.com/activitycenter



GET ON THE BUS WITH BOX TOPS!

Sign up to support our school today and be entered for a chance to

WIN 10,000

Bonus Box Tops for our school!

When you sign up at the Box Tops website, you'll be able to:

- See **complete earnings details** for our school
- Access valuable **coupons** for Box Tops brands
- Find **over 700 recipes** using Box Tops products
- Earn cash for your school when you shop online through the **Marketplace and Reading Room**
- Get exclusive chances to win **Bonus Box Tops**
 - Stay up-to-date with **Box Tops newsletters**

Here's what to do:

Go to www.boxtops4education.com/bus between March 1 and May 31, 2009.

↓
Sign up to support our school – it's easy and FREE! Each new person who signs up gives our school another chance to win **10,000 Bonus Box Tops.**