

ALUMNI

Yellow Jacket

September 1999

"Educate the young as will help them become good citizens."

Vol. 1

Moving into the Millennium

By JoAnn T. Briggs, Trustee

William L. Gilbert's vision of establishing a school to "educate the young as will help them to become good citizens" became a reality with his gift of The Gilbert Trust, created in a provision of his will. The Gilbert School, built in 1895, was originally located near the southeast corner of the Winsted town green. In 1957 a new school was constructed on the site of the Gilbert Home at the end of Williams Avenue. These 1957 buildings are now over forty years old and, though well maintained, are in need of expansion, renovation and code update. New codes - state and federal - demand safe, accessible buildings. New challenges in education require changes to the facility in order to maintain The Gilbert School's commitment to excellence.

EXPANSION

- > The Library to a Library/
Media Center
- > Six new classrooms
- > Offices for administration
and student services
- > Fitness room

TECHNOLOGY

- > School-wide network
- > School-wide Internet access
- > Additional computer labs for science, social studies, and foreign language
- > Distance learning classroom
- > Video production classroom

CODE UPDATE

- > School will be completely accessible for handicapped (a serious challenge for a school with eleven levels).
- > School will meet all asbestos and fire safety codes.

The cost of this project will be 10.5 million dollars -- of which The Gilbert Trust has committed 3.5 million dollars. Because The Gilbert School serves as the public high school for the Towns of Winchester and Hartland, the State of Connecticut will pay 70% of the qualified reimbursable expenses.

The Gilbert Trust was restructured in 1991 into two corporations - The W. L. Gilbert School Corporation and the W. L. Gilbert Trust Corporation (The Gilbert Trust). The school's governing board (The W. L. Gilbert School Corporation) is a nine-member board consisting of five representatives from The Gilbert Trust, three representatives from

the Town of Winchester, and one for the Town of Hartland.

The Gilbert Trust has financed the construction of the original school (1895) and the present buildings (1957). It has enabled The Gilbert School to provide a quality high school education for over 100 years. Additionally, until 1949, the Trust even provided free high school education for eligible students from the Town of Winchester. Presently the Towns of Winchester and Hartland pay tuition to The Gilbert School for their students.

the Trust

The ongoing mission of The Gilbert Trust is to keep The Gilbert School facility up to date, to continue to support quality education for all students, and to make available enhancement supporting new programs, faculty, staff, and students. To achieve its mission, the Trust needs new partners - specifically alumni, external granting agencies and foundations. Their role is needed to support the new construction and to continue The Gilbert School's quest for excellence in education. Working together we can continue to fulfill the vision of William L. Gilbert to "educate the young as will help them become good citizens" as we enter the new millennium.

If you are interested in learning more about the Trust or the building project, please contact:

Robert F. Gazda, Ed.D.
Superintendent/Principal
The Gilbert School
200 Williams Avenue
Winsted, CT 06098
Phone: (860) 379-8521

Realizing the Dream

This is an exciting time at The Gilbert School. For the past several years, the Board of Trustees has been working hard to develop plans to expand and improve the facilities of the students of The Gilbert School. This dream will be realized in the near future with the construction of the new Media Center and the many supplemental renovations that will be done. The W. L. Gilbert Trust is responsible for financing the portion of the project that was not funded by the State of Connecticut.

Just as the funding was required for this facilities enhancement, there will be situations in the future that will require funding. The leadership of the school wants to ensure that when financial resources are required to provide improvements and enhancements at school, they are available. Therefore, in order to continue planning for the future, the school is making plans to establish an active fundraising program. The first step, was to invite input from the many members of The Gilbert School constituency. It is simply not practical to meet individually with everyone, so there were several small group meetings held locally with a representative group of constituents, and we would like to ask for your input as well. Enclosed with this newsletter there is a separate sheet asking for your comments. We would appreciate it if you would take a few moments to tell us what you think about the school, what you would like to hear about in future newsletters, etc. and return it to us here at school. By getting input from as many Gilbert School family members as possible, we hope to be able to continue to make good decisions about educating the young people of this area.

The Development Committee of the Trust has been spearheading this initiative. In addition to seeking a broad range of input from people, they will be organizing a development and alumni office, securing the technology and other tools necessary to do the job, creating this newsletter, updating the database so that we can communicate effectively with you on a regular basis, establishing a permanent annual fund appeal for the school, and eventually, hiring the staff required to support this important, on-going effort.



As you read this inaugural edition of the newsletter and reflect upon your experience at The Gilbert School, please take time to write back to us. Also, **please be certain to inform us of any changes in name, address, and telephone number.** This will help us in our continual effort to keep our records accurate. In the months ahead, you will be hearing from us and we will update you on the progress of this project. If you have any questions or would like to speak with anyone about what is going on at school, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Gazda, the Headmaster, here at school. Thank you; we look forward to hearing from you.



Leader in Athletics

By Michael Gamari, Athletic Director

The Gilbert School Athletic Program is rolling along in fine shape. Currently we offer 19 varsity, 9 junior varsity, 4 freshman programs, and 3 cheerleading teams. Gilbert is among the school leaders in participation across the state. We constantly involve about 300 of our students (55 - 60% of the student body) when the year is completed. We are staffed by 36 coaches, from all walks of life, who are dedicated to helping shape our students towards a balanced and rewarding future.

Our success in the past 15 years has been outstanding. We have won more than 25 League Championships in a variety of sports including; Baseball, Volleyball, Wrestling, Basketball (Boys and Girls), Cross Country (Boys and Girls), Golf and Track. Gilbert has won 5 State Championships during this time in Baseball, Volleyball, Girls Cross Country, and just last year, Boys Basketball.

The Alumni have also established themselves well in the collegiate scene. More than 30 of our former athletes have gone on to participate and be successful at the college level in the past 15 years.

Recently, the Berkshire League instituted an All Scholastic Honor for athletes with a classroom average of 88 or better. Gilbert is among leaders in this important area. This past fall, 34 of our athletes achieved this distinction.

Adding to our overall performance, the State for the past 12 years has instituted a Michael's Cup Award. This award is based on a combination criteria including; participation, scholarship, sportsmanship, chemical free, and win/loss records. Gilbert consistently finishes in the top three in our Division "SS", and has finished in first place twice, in 1988 and 1996.



Award Winning School

(Reprinted from The Hartford Courant, February 25, 1999)

The Gilbert School recently won the top prize in two of 10 categories in the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education's annual Awards of Excellence for Educational Communication. Gilbert's literary magazine, "Cryptic Muse," and its Web site were selected from dozens of entries as the best among small schools in the state.



Technology Education

By Melissa Murrow, Technology Education

The Gilbert School Technology Education Department currently offers ten different elective courses ranging from Architectural Drafting to Web Site Design. All freshman participate in Science & Technology, a team-taught integrated course in physical science and design problem solving principles. Along with these courses, a number of students elect to participate in Independent Studies, providing the opportunity to further enhance knowledge and skills in a specific technological area.

This year, the department has had much success with the pilot sources in Web Site Design and Aerospace Technology, featuring a Technology Focus week in October where students showcased their projects and experiences. The week included hosting Lunar and Meteorite samples from NASA, keynote speakers from Hamilton Standards Company, and a community Open House. Students from several of the Technology classes participated to make the week an exciting learning experience for everyone involved.

A group of students from both the Aerospace Technology class and the independent study class in Principles of Flight participated in a four-day field trip to Kennedy Space Center to view the launch of the space shuttle Endeavor. Several students from different Technology classes will be attending the experiment deintegration at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia, where students will collect their peanut butter experiment that flew on the Endeavor mission.

The Technology Department has worked hard to provide students with real world opportunities and experiences that spark student interest and motivation by utilizing both local and national resources.

Development Resources

By Dr. Robert Gazda, Superintendent/Principal

The past decade has seen a transformation of The Gilbert School. We have reorganized our governing structure to allow us to better tap those resources, which would not otherwise have been available to us. In this way, we are better able to meet our commitment to serve, educationally, the needs of Winchester and Hartland students.

As we approach the new millennium, we do so knowing that The Gilbert School will continue to uphold its tradition of preparing our young men and women for taking their place as positive and constructive members of society.

We have been very fortunate to be able to use resources, including the very generous contributions of The W. L. Gilbert Trust, to prepare for the much-needed expansion/renovation of the facility. This project, when coupled with the advances we have made in integrating technology-based skills into our curricula, will provide our students with the tools to succeed into the world they will enter after graduation.

Most notable as a source of continued pride as well as the prime reason for our continued success as an educational institution is the continued commitment to excellence, the dedication and the sensitivity of The Gilbert School staff. Students and staff are where education happens and we are so very fortunate to have the best of both.

We hope that you will find a special way to encourage us, support us and remain a part of what The Gilbert School has and will always be -- an exceptional school which helps develop exceptional young men and women.



The W. L. Gilbert Trust Corporation
The Gilbert School
200 Williams Avenue
Winsted, CT 06098

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Alumni News

(Whatever Happened To...)

Class of '56

Maurice (Moe) R. Gabelmann

Married 4/18/64 to Carol Hurlbut, a grad of Pinkerton Academy, Derry, NH and the only member of the family not to graduate from Gilbert! They have three children; Elisa B., ('87) married to William H. McCabe, Jr. ('87); David C. ('89); and Suzanne C. ('90). They also have two grandchildren, Ashley (6 yrs.) and Billy (5 yrs.) McCabe. Moe was with C. F. Gabelmann & Sons Construction from 1956 - 1961, then the US Army Engineers from 1961 - 1963. On December 31, 1993, he retired from CL & P-NU after 30 years of service. You can contact Moe at 225 Colebrook Rd., Winsted, CT 06098 (860) 379-8936.

Class of '70

Alan and Maureen Barber

The Gilbert School is a family affair for the Barbers. Maureen ('70) is a staff therapist at the Northwest Center for Family Service and Mental Health in Torrington, working with children, adults, couples, and families. Her husband, Alan ('70) is an attorney in Winsted as well as the Probate Judge for the towns of Winchester and Colebrook. Alan also serves as a Gilbert School Trustee. Daughter Lauren ('96), a former Gilbert cheerleader, is currently a senior at the University of Connecticut. Maureen and Alan continue cheering on the Gilbert Yellow Jackets while watching son Michael play basketball and baseball for Gilbert as a member of the Class of 2001.

Class of '70

Bill Riiska

Bill is an attorney with a practice in Winsted and President of the Board of Directors of the Northwest Center for Family Service and Mental Health. He is married to Megan Huddleston and they have a child named Jake. Write to Bill at his Norfolk home at; 68 Litchfield Road, Norfolk, CT 06058

Class of '94

Carianne Mack

Carianne graduated Alfred University last May, and has had many adventures since, including a cross country road trip with fellow '94ers Alyson Werner and Brenda Thomson. She is looking forward to graduate school in September at the University of Iowa where she will study painting.

Class of '96

Tim Mack

Tim Mack ('96) is graduating Fox Institute as a computer geek. He is looking forward to a cyber career.

Class of '99

Brenna Mack

Brenna is off to art school and looking forward to testing her wings. Friends can write any of **The Macks** at 69 Norfolk Road, Winsted, CT 06098

The Gilbert School

Realizing the Dream

At The Gilbert School, we *are* realizing the dream that is so much a part of William L. Gilbert's vision. As a member of The Gilbert School constituency, your comments and input are very important to us. Please take a few moments to reflect on this comment sheet about your ideas regarding The Gilbert School.

Look Who Never Left Gilbert...

The Gilbert Trust is alive and well thanks to the work and dedication of Winchester residents and those who have served as trustees over the years. Each generation has given generously of their time and talents. So many Gilbert Alumni have come back to support their alma mater with a gift of service -- see for yourself!

Presently serving the school as volunteers on the Trust, School Board and Building Committee are Gilbert graduates and parents of Gilbert graduates from the 1940's on.

Alan M. Barber	1970	Attorney	Trustee - Audit & Enhancement
Susan L. (Moore) Belle-Isle	1970	Banker, NWCB	Trustee - Treasurer, Ch. Finance, School
Thomas J. Botticelli		Banker, Fleet	Trustee - Audit & School
Patricia A. Bourque		Librarian Assistant	Trustee - Ch. School & Nominating, & Enhancement
JoAnn T. Briggs		Volunteer	Trustee - Building & Nominating
David A. Cappabianca	1971	Consulting	Trustee - R/E Management
Alan S. Colavècchio	1969	Graphic Designer	Trustee - Development
James E. Davis	1947	Retired Banker	Trustee - Secretary, Nominating
Franklin W. Hall	1950	Retired Postal	Trustee - Ch. R/E Management
Deborah G. (Glynn) Jones	1970	Sec. Sp. Ed. WBOE	Trustee - Enhancement & Nominating
Roger W. Jones	1949	Retired Surveyor	Trustee - President, Building & R/E Management
Ellen C. (Cormier) Marino	1983	Attorney	Trustee - School, Development & Building
Robert P. O'Connor	1949	Retired Banker	Trustee - Ch. Enhancement
Robert Picard	1966	Manufacturer	Trustee - School
Par A. Rasmusson		Claims trainer	Trustee - Audit & Development
Linda Vaccari		Office Manager	Trustee - Development
Anthony J. Cannavo	1945	Contractor/Realtor	School Corp., Building, former Trustee
Andrea (Blanchette) Devereux	1976	Financial Aid Counselor	Development
Dorothy (Wetmore) Robbins	1954	Administrative Assistant	Development
Carol Mack			Development, former Trustee
Gene A. Gouthier	1974		School Corp., member WBOE
Joanne M. (Cannavo) Marzullo	1970	Dental Hygienist	School Corp., member WBOE
Joanne Sciola		Educator	School Corp., Hartland Representative
Jessica Lampron		Student	School Corp.
Faith Prelli		Student	School Corp.
Pamela Corey		Construction	Building
Elaine Fortuna		Educator	Building
Charles Gabelmann, Jr.	1946	Retired Gilbert School	Building
Harold Groth		Business Owner	Building, Hartland
Stephen G. Vaill	1961	Water & Sewer Comm.	Building, former Trustee
Frank Smith, Jr.	1953	Construction Manager	Building
Warren Haag		Carpenter	Building, Hartland

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We're always looking for alumni of The Gilbert School. Please be sure to keep us up-to-date with your current name, address and phone number. If you have any information on "lost" alumni, please pass it on to Alan Colavecchio at (860) 379-9893, or mail this information back to us so that we may include their address on our newsletter mailing list!

We want to hear from you!

It's fun keeping in touch. Let us know where you are by taking a minute to fill out and return this form.

Class _____

Last Name _____, First Name _____ Maiden Name _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ zip _____

Phone _____ email address _____