

Gullett Gazette

September 1, 2026

70th
let's disc-grow



Principal's Post

Dear Caregivers,



Welcome to September! On the first day of each month we will be sharing our “Gullett Gazette” to give our families important schoolwide information. This will include updates from me, Essential Areas, Librarian and our counselor. We will be sending out the Gazette through both Thrillshare and Konstella, so this will be one you get doubles of. Teachers will continue to send weekly classroom updates on Konstella and other school information from PTA and campus events is also communicated through there.

Our Geckos are definitely in the swing of things! Procedures are firmly in place, and students are working all kinds of learning opportunities as they explore the curriculum. Here at Gullett, we love a good dress up opportunity. **On Monday, September 15th,** we will celebrate international “Dot Day” which is focused on creativity, collaboration and courage. We are encouraging students to wear polka dots on the 15th as a symbol of being original and making your mark. We also have our Marathon Kids Kickoff on **Friday, September 18th,** so please make sure those running shoes are on too!

Many volunteer opportunities are starting here at Gullett and we are thrilled to welcome our parents into our school! Please remember that to volunteer, you must have a free yearly required background check completed. You can get signed up at <https://austinisd.voly.org>. Once a volunteer registers through Voly they will receive an email to complete the background check which can be processed as quickly as 5 minutes and a max of 5 days.

Room parents are getting started and AppleCore has already been hard at work. Our grounds team is taking on their next big project of gardening with classrooms, and our beloved animals came back from summer break needing their regular care. On September 14th at 5:30 in the library and online, we will have our “Gathering of the Guardians” which is a training for “Guardians of the Geckos” and will be right before our PTA meeting begins at 6pm. [Here is the link for both the PTA Meeting as well as the orientation.](#) Check out [this flier for more information!](#) This is a great way to volunteer for just one day here at the school and get an up close look at a day in the life of your Gecko. This opportunity is open to all caregivers!

Back to School Night

On Thursday, **September 3rd**, our teachers will host **Back to School night** to share relevant information with you about the classroom and curriculum goals and expectations for the year. The first session begins at 5:00 and will include a campus welcome video and the 2nd session is at 5:40. The same information will be shared at both sessions. This event is geared towards grown ups, so please if possible, leave your Gecko at home.



Absences & Late Arrival

We have had several questions about funding for student absences. Funding is different than being excused. You can have an excused absence and still not be funded. **All full day absences are unfunded with the exception of an absence for a religious holiday.** Those absences are excused and funded with a note submitted using the AISD form. The district allows for a travel day before and after the religious holiday. The AISD ["Report an Absence" form](#) will excuse the absence and the school will receive funding.

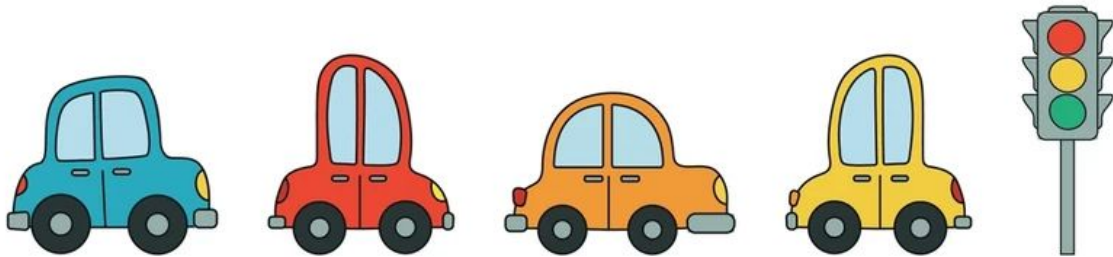
If your child has a doctor's appointment and comes to school any part of the day (morning or afternoon) and you provide a note, we will get funding. We must have a doctor's note to receive the funding.

All absence documentation should be submitted using the AISD absence form provided on the [AISD website using the link](#). If you have a doctor's note-please upload it.(The district limits the amount of parent notes we can accept to excuse absences.)

If your child is at school until 9:45 they will be considered in attendance and present for the day. If you have a trip or event your family is attending we ask that the child leave after the attendance is taken.

Traffic Reminders

- **TREADWELL:** Please make sure that when you are dropping off or picking up on Treadwell that you do not accidentally block driveways and trap somebody in who needs to leave! I would hate for AISD officers to ticket anyone.
- **DROP OFF and PICK UP in the CAR LINE-** All students need to enter and exit the car on the right side (the side of the car turned toward the school). If you need to get out of your car to help your child, then parking at a different location vs going through the car line may be a better option.
- **Parking on Great Northern?** The car line is long and wraps around it-we have gotten pretty fast but you can expect to be stuck there until 3:20-3:25-please be patient or find another route.
- **Hunt Trail:** Please continue to refrain from parking at all on Hunt. The street is very narrow and very busy, especially when you factor in buses and vans.



I am looking forward to all the excitement the next few weeks have in store as we continue to kick off the 26-27 school year. At Gullett this year our theme is “Let’s Disc-GROW!” Three years ago, we introduced Geckos G.R.O.W. to teach students Gullett core values. **G** is for goalsetters, **R** is for respectful, **O** is for original and **W** is for welcoming. We will focus on student growth and celebrating their successes.

We know our Geckos and families will have so many treasured memories this year-it’s going to be a great school year here at Gullett! Thank you again for all of your support and for sharing your children with us - Gullett is definitely a school like no other place!

Sincerely,
Tammy Thompson
Proud Principal, Gullett Elementary

Gifted & Talented

AUSTIN ISD

Gifted and Talented Services

What are GT Services?

Gifted and Talented (GT) Services offer specialized support for children who perform or show the potential to perform at a remarkably high level of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experience or environment.



Could my child benefit from GT Services?



Does your child...



seem to learn earlier or faster than peers?



have an interest in problem solving?



display persistent curiosity?



have deep, intense feelings and reactions?



have diverse or unique interests?



seem highly creative or energetic?

How do I refer my child?

Fill out the **GT Referral Form** by 10/16/26 to get the process started.



Student screening will begin in October and families will be notified with the results in December. GT Services will begin in January for newly-identified GT students.

Scan for REFERRAL FORM



September 1, 2026

Gifted & Talented & DAC

Gifted and Talented Screening

All campuses in Austin ISD offer Gifted and Talented screening in grades K-12 based on referrals submitted at

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/6f7b3ba7d964493a9aef6a5052f91f36>.

If you are interested in seeing whether your child demonstrates a need for Gifted and Talented Services, please follow the link above. When a referral is submitted for a child, their parent or caregiver will be prompted to complete a Parent/Caregiver GT Observation Form.

Referrals are received by the Campus GT Advocates (Ann Hartsfield & Sophia Gase , who facilitate the implementation of GT assessment and services at the campus level. Forms are being accepted now through October 16th.



AISD is Looking for DAC (District Advisory Council) Members!

Austin ISD is seeking members-parents, staff, community members- from various campuses to serve on the District Advisory Council (DAC) for the 2026-2027 School Year. The DAC plays an important role in shaping district priorities and advising on key issues that impact all students. If you're interested in sharing your voice and helping guide district decisions, please consider applying!

You can submit your application using the link below—be sure to select "District Advisory Council" and include your campus name, if applicable.

AISD Advisory Bodies application form: [English](#) / [Spanish](#)

Counselor Spotlight MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

- Meet the Counselor Lesson & [Emotion Elements](#)
- Mini-meetings begin
- Welcome to Gullett Lunch Groups



Welcome to a Wonderful New School Year!

I am so glad to be starting my second year here at Gullett. My primary goal is to ensure every student feels safe, valued, and supported at school, and I am excited to partner with you again this year!

Overview of Services

- **Check-Ins:** Brief chats to touch base, see how your student is feeling, and practice coping skills.
- **Small Group Counseling:** Group sessions for skills like friendship and emotional regulation. May be held during lunch time!
- **Individual Counseling:** Weekly sessions where I collaborate with your child to work toward a goal we set together.

Please reach out if you'd like to explore any of these supports for your student!

Counselor "Mini-Meetings"

Mini meetings are quick check-ins that help me to get to know all students and gain insight into their needs so that I can shape my counseling program. During these meetings, we use [this form](#) (K-2) and [this form](#) (3-5).

- If you would **NOT** like your student to participate, please complete this [Opt-Out Form](#) by Wednesday September 9th!

Contact Me

- Katelyn.tullos@austinisd.org
- (512) 414-2082 ext. 74709

Library Letter

Hello! I'm Ms. Dull, your new school librarian. For more information about me, the schedule, and library vision and goals, visit [our library website](#).
Volunteers and caregivers, kindly wait 2 weeks before helping during class times.

Library Celebrations in September

1. [National Literacy Month](#)
2. [National Library Card Sign-up Month](#)
3. [Hispanic Heritage Month Begins 9/16](#)
4. [American Indian Heritage Day 9/25](#)



Gullett Good Reads: Paletero Man, written by Lucky Diaz and illustrated by Micah Player.

Publishers Weekly Starred, 05/30/2021: Inspired by the Lucky Band's song of the same name, Latin Grammy Award-winning musician Diaz pens a bouncy rhyming narrative from the first-person perspective of a dark-haired, light brown-skinned Los Angeles resident. Intent on securing an icy paleta on the hottest day of the year, the child races down the street, greeting tattooed Tío Ernesto at his tamale cart, bespectacled Ms. Lee at her Korean barbecue taco restaurant, and Frank, a Black man who works at the bicycle shop. As the child searches on, Diaz offers a rousing refrain throughout the bilingual narrative: "Can you hear his call?/ Paletas for one!/ Paletas for all!" When the child realizes their paleta money is missing, the community members come together in a satisfying close. Player adds dynamic spreads in bright hues that often illuminate the untranslated Spanish. A wonderfully executed treat of a book with a sweet community focus. Back matter includes a heartwarming author's note on the origins of the book and song, revealing Los Angeles' Eighth Street as inspiration. Ages 4-8. (June)

Shout Outs: Thank you to PTA and all of the lovely library volunteers. Shelves and books have been rearranged. New book displays are coming soon. Chromebooks have been cleaned and are making their ways to classrooms. Signs are being made for the Gullett Thinkery and for the new library layout. Boxes have been cut down for library MakerSpace activities. Lots of organizing and systems are being built. We're beginning to weed through duplicate fiction titles. [Sign-up](#) and join volunteers Mondays and Fridays after drop-off.

Coming Soon: Join the Gullett PTA Community Book Club after school on select Fridays this school year in the Kay Gooch Library. Start date is TBD. Families will be able to check out books to read together. Neighbors are welcome. All minors must be supervised by an adult. Let's build community and bond over books. Birthday Books, a fundraiser for our Junior Library Guild subscription, is also coming soon. More library dreams on [Amazon](#)!

August Library Stats as of 8/30: 9 school days; 0 library classes; 65 books checked out; 482 Chromebooks serviced, and an [infographic](#) of these stats created with Gemeni.

The Note



Hello, Gecko Musicians!

Our year is off to a great start in the music room with students singing, playing instruments, and learning how to evaluate music from across history and geography. 3rd-5th grade students will start playing recorder in class as soon as everyone has an instrument, so please ask your student if their recorder is at school. If you need to purchase one, I prefer the [Yamaha YRS-24B](#). Please [email me](#) if you are currently unable to purchase a recorder. Since it's the beginning of the year, I also wanted to share my [teaching bio](#) so you have a better idea of who is working with your students.

Here are some upcoming musical events:

- 10/20, 6pm: 3rd grade musical program-[Nightsong](#)
- 10/30, 2:30pm: Harvest Hop (all)
- 11/7, morning: [All-City Choir](#) (5th, audition)
- 11/11, 9am: [Veterans Day Assembly](#) (all)

Lastly, I am trying to build out a listening station in my classroom. If you have any (working) CD's, cassette tapes, or records you no longer use, feel free to send them my way (non-working CD's can go to the office by 9/10 for an art project Ms. Leatherwood is planning). As always, please email me with questions!

Sincerely,
Will Jurgens
[Gullett Music Website](#)

Ms. Leatherwood

The "Art"icle

DOT Day is September 15th!
Wear something with dots on
it to celebrate creativity!



Supply ask: OLD CD's! Please leave in the office by Sept 10 for our Dot Day project.

We have kicked off the year making some collaborative art, setting up sketchbooks, reviewing Artist Trading Card expectations, and learning how to collage! ask your student about all the fun things we have going on in art.

In AISD our Kinder-1st grade Curriculum is based on:

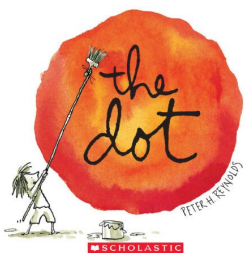
the [Elements of Art](#) and the [Principles of Design](#)

Our 2nd-5th Grade Curriculum is based on the [Studio Habits of Mind](#).

About the Art teacher:

Nicki Leatherwood is an Austin native, AISD, ACC and UT graduate who has been teaching Visual Art at Gullett since 2010! She has 2 daughters, and a husband who is an Assistant Principal in Pflugerville. In her spare time, she likes to make art, sew, read, go on Girl Scout adventures, and help mentor new art teachers.

You can find her [Classroom Wishlist here](#).



[Learn more](#) about
International Dot Day



P.E. Press



What we are learning:

It has been so great welcoming all of your returning Geckos as well as many new Geckos into the gym to move and play! We are kicking the year off with a unit on cooperation where students have the opportunity to build and deepen connections with classmates while practicing teamwork, cooperation and sportsmanship. Our wellness lessons are centered around self-regulation including how to show good sportsmanship when engaging in P.E. games and activities. Additionally, students in grades 3-5 are gearing up for the FITNESSGRAM physical fitness test. The FITNESSGRAM consists of various activities to measure each student's aerobic capacity, muscular strength and endurance, and flexibility. Tests are administered once in the fall and again in the spring.

W.O.W. Time and Marathon Kids:

On the days that your student does not have P.E. with me, they will have 20 minutes of Working Out for Wellness time or W.O.W. time with their classroom teacher. This is when they will get to track their laps for Marathon Kids! Marathon Kids is a running program designed to work for any kid, at any fitness level. Kids set their goals and track their progress on a journey to complete one or more marathons over the course of the year. Marathon Kids "Kick-Off Day" coming up on Friday, September 18th. Please be on the lookout for a Konstella post with volunteer opportunities!

How you can help your Geckos:



Please help ensure that your student(s) are wearing athletic shoes each and **every day!** There will be some form of physical education as well as recess on a daily basis, so helping your Geckos come to school with tennis shoes on will mean that they can participate in all activities safely. Your help with this is greatly appreciated!



Upcoming Dates

September | **Hispanic Heritage Month**

Character Strong Trait | **Respect**



8/31 Library Classes Begin

9/3 Back to School Night -two session start times at

Session 1: 5:00-5:40pm

Session 2: 5:40-6:15pm

9/4 College Colors Day

9/7 Labor Day Holiday

9/9 Good Reads at Gullett!

9/11 Rosh Hashanah

9/14 Arts in Ed Week,

Guardians of Geckos 5:30pm, PTA Meeting 6:00pm

Meet Link for both above is here → <https://meet.google.com/xkx-dkbz-juf>

9/15 Dot Day

9/18 Marathon Kids Kickoff

9/21 PLED Day/Student Holiday

9/29 CAC at 3:30pm

10/1 Hispanic Heritage Day & Celebration (School Day Only)

10/16 Good Morning Gullett/Principal Coffee

[illegible]

**YOU
COUNT**

September 1, 2026



GULLETT
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
AUSTIN Independent School District

Thomas A. Gullett Elementary

Tammy Thompson, Principal

Ann Hartsfield, Assistant Principal

Email: gullett@austinisd.org

Website: www.gullettgeckos.com

Location: [6310 Treadwell Boulevard, Austin, TX, USA](#)

Phone: [512-414-2082](tel:512-414-2082)

Facebook: facebook.com/gullettgeckos

Twitter: [@GullettElem](https://twitter.com/GullettElem)



Want to celebrate our staff? Submit an AISD RAVE!

Recognize
our Staff!!!



We'll start working on this **right now**



AISD Help

