



Gardner Elementary Board Report, February 2026

Team Member of the Month



Lyndsay Ahrens is so dedicated to keeping our team on track and focused, always choosing what is best for students. She spends countless hours outside of the classroom preparing and making adjustments to ensure every detail of our 4th grade life runs as smoothly as possible. Being team lead is a lot to take on when you are trying to be the voice for 10-12 unique personalities. She has navigated those waters with grace and thoughtfulness. Her constant reminders to try and focus on the positive in challenging situations is always appreciated. So grateful to have had Lyndsay leading our crew for these many years. I admire Lyndsay's leadership abilities. She is truly someone who wears many hats and does it all with grace and determination. She's a dedicated mom who balances her family responsibilities with her professional life seamlessly. At work, she leads with confidence and organization, ensuring schedules are coordinated and deadlines are met. Whether she's attending meetings, planning ahead, or stepping in to help others, she always gives her best effort. Her strong work ethic, reliability, and positive attitude inspire everyone around her, proving that with dedication and heart, it's possible to juggle many roles and still shine in each one.

Recent Events

- Thank you to Kyle Buettner and Traci Simms, Gardner parents, for attending our first School Improvement team meeting. While we have completed only half of the ISBE needs assessment rubric, we already have some ideas for the future.
- Thank you to Jessica Washausen, who met with the fourth grade team and fifth grade team to share ideas for how to plan for IAR practice.
 - During POP in February, we are teaching about empathy or what we call our shoe lesson. We challenge students to think about how it feels to be in someone else's shoes before we say or do.
 - Our Parent Book Club met as February began to discuss Chapters 1-6 with new members and a new book, *Raising Mentally Strong Kids*. We want to encourage others to think about what is good for our brains.
 - Gardner students, who were allowed by parents, took the 5 Essentials Survey last week.
 - Thank you to Mrs. Tamil Shufelt and our SHOW Senators for organizing our second annual Bulldog Spiritwear Fundraiser on Saturday, February 21. SHOW also planned our Kindness Week fun for the week of February 9.
- Thank you to Grand Canyon University who treated us to pizza lunch and shared professional development course offerings.

