



Goosehill Primary School

Weekly Notes- March 7, 2014



Dear Parents,

At this week's GPFA meeting, I addressed the topic of homework. I thought I'd share a few of the ideas we discussed, especially the tips for parents. I hope you find them helpful.

One goal of homework is for students to practice and apply the skills they are learning. Other goals include helping them develop independence, a sense of responsibility, and organizational skills. There are many ways parents can support their children:

- ✓ **Establish a homework routine.** It's a good idea to give your child some control over when homework is to be done---right away, after a snack, right before dinner. (After dinner HW time often is problematic, as children and parents are tired.) *Make sure your child has at least 30 minutes before bed (without electronics) to unwind.
- ✓ **Establish a daily homework folder routine-** Have your child unpack the folder, set up HW tasks, choose an order in which tasks will be completed, pack all HW up and put the folder back in the backpack immediately.
- ✓ **Read and respond to notes from the school.** Remove "graded" homework. Decide what should be saved (such as your child's writing) and what can be discarded (such as practice worksheets).
- ✓ **Utilize a family calendar-** Record school events, dates when forms/assignments are due, children's activities, family plans, etc.
- ✓ **Have all materials accessible-** Create a drawer or fill a box with the items your child may need: pencils, sharpener, eraser, counters (pennies), ruler, paper, children's dictionary, scissors, glue stick, colored pencils, markers...
- ✓ **Read the instructions together-** Talk about what is being asked. Have your child paraphrase the instructions and then clear up any misconceptions.
- ✓ **Allow/Encourage your child to complete the task independently.** Watch/support as he gets started/completes one or two problems, and then fade back. Let your child know you are available to help *after* he's tried it on his own.
- ✓ **Celebrate effort and independence first.** Help your child feel proud of himself: "You must feel really good about how hard you worked on this." or "You must be proud of how you did this on your own!"
- ✓ **Review the work- Ask questions, show interest.** "How did you solve that problem?" "What did you learn from this?" Comment on the positive. ("I like how you...") If quality/neatness is an issue, ask, "What can you do to make this better? If your child resists, let the teacher know you would like quality/neatness reinforced.
- ✓ **To correct or Not to Correct?** If you see your child making an error, it is okay to help him correct it. It would be counter-productive for a child to practice doing something incorrectly. However, be careful not to do too much for your child. If he needs a lot of support from you, please send the teacher a note.

There are specific ways to assist your child as he completes homework in math, spelling, and writing. If you have questions, or would like more information, I would be happy to offer another workshop. Please send me your ideas or questions or contact the GPFA to request a workshop topic.

It is important to make quiet reading and study time a pleasant part of every day. Help your child feel accomplished, capable, and secure in himself. Celebrate and honor his effort. Your support makes all the difference!

Enjoy the weekend---Spring ahead!

Lynn Herschlein



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Board of Education

The next meeting of the Board of Education will take place on March 11th at 8:00 p.m. in the District Office.

Parent-Teacher Conferences- Noon Dismissal: March 21st, 28th, and April 4th

As you know, there will be half days of school on four consecutive Fridays **March 21st through April 11th**. (Although April 11th is not a Parent-Teacher Conference Day, it is a half day of school for K-6 students. Staff Development sessions will be conducted that afternoon for all elementary staff.)

Author Visit and Book Orders

Thanks to the generosity of the GPFA and our Cultural Arts Committee, our students will have the opportunity to learn from children's book author, Alyssa Capucilli on April 1st. Ms. Capucilli is the author of many children's books including the Biscuit series. An order form was distributed this week to offer families the chance to purchase one of Ms. Capucilli's books, which she will sign that day. **Forms are due on Friday, March 14th**.

Final Learning Club for 1st Graders

Today the first graders "visited" their last country! Their passports now contain five stickers representing China, Kenya, Australia, Greece, and Uruguay. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our teachers and staff, the children learned so much about cultures of the world. The message we reinforced throughout the experience was that although people living in different parts of the world may *look* different and *do* things differently, *people are people!* A big thank you to the SIT for organizing and supporting the Learning Club initiative and to the parent volunteers who helped in the classrooms each week.

Parent Portal

As you know, report cards for this marking period will be distributed at your parent-teacher conference in March/April. (Conference dates are: March 21, 28, and April 4 and are half days of school. More info to follow.) Additionally, you will be able to access your child's report card through the Cold Spring Harbor School District website Parent Portal. Instructions for registering for the portal and accessing your child's report card were distributed this week.

NOTES FROM THE GPFA

Thank you all for coming to the GPFA meeting this past Wednesday. We had a great turnout and we appreciate your time! The next one is April 9th at 9:30 a.m. at Goosehill.

Also, please mark your calendars for the following dates:

Friday, March 14th- First graders have a field trip to Lloyd Harbor School to see their production of "Beauty and the Beast." Please remember to return your permission slip.

Tuesday, April 1st – Alyssa Capucilli of the Biscuit book series is coming to Goosehill for an Author's Visit. Remember to send in your forms if you would like to order signed books.

Correction: Good News! We are still collecting box tops through the end of the year. Keep sending them in!

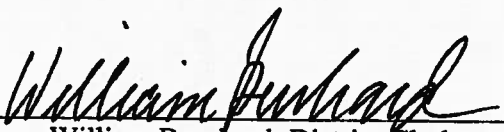
Reminder: If you will have a child in Goosehill next year and are interested in being on the GPFA Board next year, please remember to self nominate and send in your forms by March 21st.

COLD SPRING HARBOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
75 Goose Hill Road, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724

**** PLEASE POST ****

Please be advised that a regular meeting of the Board of Education will take place on March 11, 2014, at 5:30 p.m. at The Francis Roberts Community Center, at which time the Board of Education may consider a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss matters appropriate for Executive Session. If no such motion is adopted, the meeting will recess until 8:00 p.m.

At 8:00 p.m., the Board of Education will reconvene its public meeting to discuss Board Agenda items appropriate for Public Session, pursuant to the Open Meetings Law.

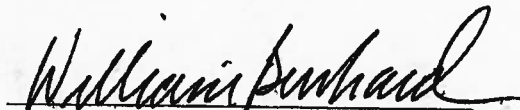


William Bernhard, District Clerk

COLD SPRING HARBOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
75 Goose Hill Road, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724

**** PLEASE POST ****

Please be advised that a special meeting of the Board of Education will take place on March 13, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. in the Superintendent's Office at the Francis Roberts Community Center to discuss the proposed budget for 2014-2015. If necessary, the Board of Education may adjourn to Executive Session to discuss matters appropriate for Executive Session.


William Bernhard, District Clerk

For Kids & Teens! Programs from Cold Spring Harbor Library's Youth Services Department. Registration Required!

Child ID Card Program

Saturday, March 8 from 1:00-4:00 pm

For children of all ages with their families

Sponsored by New York Life.

Stop by between 1:00-4:00 pm and get an ID for your child and enjoy complimentary refreshments.

Cuckoo Clock

Monday, March 10 @ 4:30 pm

For Children in grades 3-5

Children will enjoy creating a working clock reminiscent of the classic "Cuckoo" style, complete with its own little bird

For Teens & Adults

About Boating Safely Course

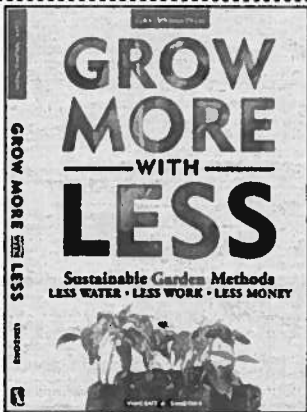
Saturday, March 15 from 10:00 am -5:00 pm

Presented by the Cold Spring Harbor Coast Guard Auxiliary

This is a one-day intensive instructional course for those boaters that need to meet the New York State requirements to operate a boat in the waters of the State of New York. Fee: \$40.

For more information about any Kids or Teen Programs, contact a Youth Services Librarian at the Cold Spring Harbor Library - 631-692-6820

For Adults! Programs for Grown-Ups from Cold Spring Harbor Library's Information Services Department



Grow More with Less: Sustainable Garden Methods

Sunday, March 13 at 2pm

How does your garden grow? With the advice of Horticultural expert Vincent A. Simeone, author of *Grow More With Less: Sustainable Garden Methods: Less Water - Less Work - Less Money*, better than ever before! Simeone will make the what, how, and why of sustainable gardening unmistakably clear.

Copies of *Grow More With Less* will be available for purchase.

For more information about any Adult Program, contact Information Services at the Cold Spring Harbor Library at 631-692-6820.