



Goosehill Primary School

Weekly Notes- December 12, 2014



Dear Parents,

At the GPFA meeting on Wednesday, I reviewed the report card categories and our approach to supporting our students' growth. Some important ideas were discussed and I would like to share some of them with you here.

The first report card for the 2014-15 school year will be available today on the Parent Portal after 5:00 p.m. (If you haven't yet registered on the portal, please see the instructions on the reverse side of these notes.)

Purpose: The Goosehill report card is designed to communicate your child's achievement in relation to the New York State Common Core Learning Standards. Our students are developing essential skills, learning complex ideas, and developing strategies that will help them achieve at high levels throughout their educational experience. They are working hard every day! Please remember that while a report card provides you with insight into your child's progress *at a moment in time*, it does not define him or her as a student. It is *one* part of our important home-school connection. We are working together to help all of our students develop confidence and competence so that learning is **enjoyable** and **rewarding**. When it is, they will seek new ideas, take risks, collaborate with others, and persevere when faced with a challenge---all essential ingredients for success!

Performance Levels: Performance levels range from 1-4 and indicate where your child is performing in relation to *benchmarks* we've set for each marking period. If your child is **meeting expectations** (performance level 3), it means that s/he has learned the foundational concepts and skills expected at this point in the school year and can apply them with some level of independence. It is important to note that grade level expectations are quite high, so **a performance level of 3 is a commendable achievement!** Occasionally, a child demonstrates a strong ability to perform in a particular area and applies a skill consistently and independently. His/her performance may actually exceed expectations at points during the school year (level 4).

If your child **needs support to meet grade level expectations** (performance level 2), it means that while s/he is learning and demonstrating many of the skills s/he needs, s/he is not quite able to consistently apply them on his/her own yet. **Most children perform at level 2 in a few areas**, and their teachers target instruction to address those skills in the classroom. A child performing at level 2 *may* or *may not* be receiving Academic Intervention Services (AIS) at this time, but his/her progress is being monitored. ***Remember, at Goosehill we recognize that learning is part of a developmental process that involves many factors including age, readiness, and experience. All children develop at different rates and at different times. We provide extra support to many, many students whenever we think they need a little "boost." This is not a cause for alarm! Rather, it is part of a very comprehensive approach to meeting children's needs.

If your child is **having difficulty meeting grade level standards** (performance level 1) s/he is receiving AIS or other kinds of support in addition to classroom instruction. Your child's teachers will have shared their plans for teaching your child the necessary skills so that s/he can make steady progress toward meeting the expectations of the grade level.

Reading Stage: The Reading Stage indicated on the report card is designed to give you information about the types of books your child is reading in school and the skills s/he is developing at this time. Children progress through reading stages in uneven ways! Some may linger in a stage and then have a burst of progress, while others start out moving quickly through stages and then deepen their skills within one stage for a few months. A list of books that correlate with the reading stages will be posted on the GH website under **Parent Information** today. Please use it as a guide to help you choose books that are comfortable for your child to read at home.

*Please remember to choose books at the stage that comes **before** your child's stage to ensure that s/he enjoys a lot of "high-success" reading at home, which helps to build fluency and comprehension.

What really matters: When you review your child's report card, the teachers and I hope that you will take time to talk with your child about what is most important- *effort, achievement, kindness toward others, and positive attitudes about learning*. While it is up to whether or not you share actual performance levels with your child, the teachers and I hope that the report card helps you celebrate your child's efforts and accomplishments in all areas, including the arts, music, and physical education. We also hope that it encourages conversations about goal-setting. Children need to know that they can improve their skills with practice and effort and that they have the support of their parents and teachers. As the New Year approaches, it is the perfect time to teach your child about the power of effort and commitment to being his/her "best self."

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Warm regards,

Lynn Herschlein

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(notices you can access at our website and read/print from home)

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SPIRIT DAY/PAJAMA DAY- Our next Spirit Day will be on **Wednesday, December 17th**. We will also make it a pajama day! Please just remember that the children need regular footwear and pajamas that are warm enough to wear outdoors for recess.

THANK YOU- Thank you to Mrs. Gitto and Mrs. Bonventre for organizing the Holiday Cookie Bake. Thank you to all parents who contributed to the lovely, delicious cookie trays. Our entire staff appreciates your kindness and thoughtfulness.

LAST CALL: Volunteers Needed! Healthy Habits Day- January 16 (half day of school) 8:30-12:00
We are seeking two or three more volunteers to provide workshops for children. *Are you a physician who could talk with our students about staying healthy? Or are you a scientist who could explain genetics to children in the simplest terms? Are you (or do you know) a police officer who could talk with the children about staying safe? Are you someone who attends yoga classes and could teach our students a few simple poses?* These are just ideas! If you are interested exploring an idea or providing or arranging for a workshop, please contact Mrs. Herschlein (lherschlein@csk.k12.ny.us) by December 18th.

Instructions for accessing your child's report card on the Parent Portal:

Go to the CSH webpage (www.csh.k12.ny.us)

1. Go to the pull down menu "*For Parents*" and click on "*Parent Portal*"
2. Scroll all the way down to "*How can I apply for access to the portal?*" and click the blue link that begins with "You can apply for an account online." Click "Yes" on the pop-up window.
3. The eSchoolData login screen will open. Click on "*Online Registration*" (bottom of the box).
4. You will be asked to fill out information on three tabs, beginning with the *Account Information* portion (followed by *Personal Information* and *Student Information*).
5. Once all parts have been filled out you will receive an automatically-generated email indicating that your registration information has been submitted.

Notes from the GPFA

As you cross off your shopping lists, be sure to stop in to see all the great gifts at Little Switzerland. The owner, Lily Dergh is offering five percent of sales back to the Goosehill GPFA. Be sure to mention our school name when you shop.

Goosehill will be closed on Monday, December 22nd and reopen on Monday, January 5th.

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



Rice Krispie Candy Cottages
Monday, December 15th &
Wednesday, December 17th at 4:30pm
For children in grades K-6
 Build and decorate a rice krispie treat candy cottage to celebrate the season!

TEEN Crafternoons
Friday, December 19th 3pm
For children in grades 6-12

Take a study break and craft away! We'll provide the supplies so you can get your craft on! Stop by Miss Kate's desk on the Lower Level for all material.



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*

Planning for Winter Recess? Remember the FREE Museum Passes Available @ Your Library!

Our complete roster includes:

Long Island Museums:

- * Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery
- * Cradle of Aviation Museum
- * Heckscher Museum of Art
- * Long Island Children's Museum
- * Nassau County Museum of Art
- * Old Westbury Gardens
- * Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum & Planetarium
- * The Whaling Museum & Education Center of Cold Spring Harbor

Note: Reservations can be taken up to three months in advance of your desired date, subject to availability.



New York Museums

- * American Museum of Natural History
 - * Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum
 - * Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum
- (also admits to the Brooklyn Museum)*

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

Cold Spring Harbor
2014 Holiday Events



Saturday, December 6th

12:00 - 4:00pm • LIU Post Chorus will be caroling down Main Street
2:00 - 4:00pm • L.I. Authors Holiday Book Signing at the SPLIA Gallery
5:00pm • CSH Fire Department Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 7th

1:00 - 4:00pm • Carriage Rides on Main Street

Saturday, December 13th

12:00 - 4:00pm • LIU Post Chorus will be caroling down Main Street

Sunday, December 14th

1:00 - 4:00pm • Carriage Rides on Main Street
1:30 - 4:00 • Santa comes to town at The Firehouse Museum
3:00 - 4:00pm • MetroGnomes Suzuki violin players at the SPLIA Gallery

Saturday, December 20th

12:00 - 4:00pm • LIU Post Chorus will be caroling down Main Street

Sunday, December 21st

1:00 - 4:00pm • Carriage Rides on Main Street

