



Goosehill Primary School
Weekly Notes-January 29, 2016



Dear Parents,

As you know, our teachers assess their students' skills in a variety of ways throughout the year. They observe and talk with children to gain insight into how they approach reading, writing, and math tasks. Teachers take notes as they observe the children at work and analyze their observations. This type of "informal" assessment happens every day and helps teachers design lessons and target instruction to address children's specific learning needs.

We also engage children in more "formal" assessments on a regular basis. Some assessments are traditional end-of-unit paper and pencil tests and others are computer-based multiple choice assessments. The children are commended for their effort and never made to feel pressure to perform. Our students can tell you that assessments are simply ways for their teachers to know "what they need to teach me next."

We use a combination of informal and formal assessments to help us determine which students may need a little bit of extra support. Some support is in the form of after-school extra help, provided by the child's teacher. Other kinds of support may be in the form of 5-10 minutes of practice, with something such as sight words, provided by one of our teacher assistants. Academic Intervention Services (AIS) may be thirty minutes a few times a week of extra support in reading, and is provided for many, many students at Goosehill at different times during the year. We try to support our young readers before they become frustrated so that reading continues to be a pleasurable experience for them. We consider AIS a "boost" because often it takes just a little extra time to foster competence and confidence.

Another component of the student assessment process is added in grades 3-8. As all states do, New York State requires that students take annual assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics. These assessments were designed to ensure that all students in our state have the opportunity and support necessary to achieve at high levels. They provide an additional piece of information that helps schools determine students' needs for AIS. As you may have heard, some parents across the state have voiced objections to the current assessments and elected to have their children refuse or "opt out" of the tests. Because Cold Spring Harbor parents of students in grades 3-8 may have questions about what they are hearing in the news about test refusals, Dr. Wilansky, Mrs. Bellino, and our team of School Principals sent a letter home this week outlining reasons why student participation matters. Although Goosehill students are not affected by the New York State assessments, I have attached the letter to these notes to help you understand the issues.

As a school district, we are committed to ensuring that our students continue to enjoy a high-quality education. We work diligently every day to prepare them to face a variety of challenges within a framework of support. Our mission to foster each child's academic and social-emotional growth remains at the forefront of everything we do: *Each student...every day.*

If you have any questions about the assessment process, or any other aspect of your child's educational experience, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warm regards,
Lynn Herschlein

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

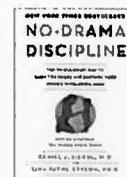
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Valentine's Day Guidelines

If your child will be distributing Valentines to his/her classmates, please remember that for the safety of all of our students, we do not permit the distribution of candy (or food items) at Goosehill Primary School.

Parent Book Club

Mrs. Herschlein will be facilitating a Book Club next month. The title of the book is **No-Drama Discipline: The Whole-Brain Way to Calm the Chaos and Nurture Your Child's Developing Mind** by Daniel Siegel, M.D. and Tina Payne Bryson, PH.D. Fifteen parents have signed up so far. If you are interested in participating, please email Mrs. Herschlein. (lherschlein@csh.k12.ny.us) Books are on reserve at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. We will meet to discuss the first half of the book on Thursday, February 25th at 10:00 a.m. Please join us!



***IMPORTANT NOTE regarding dismissal ***

If you need to change your child's dismissal plan it is **very important** that you send a note to school in your child's backpack **in the morning**. Any change should be reviewed with your child (show him/her the note) in the morning so that s/he is comfortable with the plan. **Phone calls to the office to make changes after the children have arrived to school cause confusion and increase the possibility for error and should be made only in unavoidable situations.**

Kindergarten Registration- If your preschool child will be 5 years old on or before December 1, 2016, s/he is eligible for kindergarten in September 2016. Please contact the District Registrar, Gloria Albert at (631) 367-5910) if you have not received registration information from the Superintendent, or you do not have an appointment to register. Registration begins next week in the District Office.

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 4th - First Grade Family Fun Night- 6:00 p.m.* note change from 6:15 to 6:00

February 10th - GPFA Meeting 9:30 a.m.

February 11th - Kindergarten 100th Day Concert 9:30 a.m.

February 15th-19th - Winter break

February 25th - Book Club Meeting 10:00 a.m.



GPFA UPDATES

Thanks to all who came out for Kindergarten Family Fun Night! Handsome Harry put on a great show and the kids all seemed to have a great time. Special thanks to Dawn Flower for organizing the event and to all of our volunteers: Tricia Avidano, Ginette Reynolds, Cat Bauer and Ava Sierecki.

The January Box Top Competition has come to a close - stay tuned for the winning classes! Thank you to all who participated and sent in Box Tops from home. It was fun to have a friendly competition and better yet, we were able to raise money for our school! Special thanks to Shannon Millett who coordinates our Box Top efforts throughout the school year.

Please join us next Thursday, February 4th at 6pm for First Grade Family Fun Night! Bring the whole family and enjoy an exciting show by Mad Science. \$10 per family; siblings welcome. The show will start promptly at 6pm. Feel free to arrive a few minutes early to get settled and ready for the show. Hope to see you there!

Looking for new books for your family? Lloyd Harbor School is having a book fair next week and Goosehill families are invited to attend and purchase books! The book fair will be held in the Little Theatre at LHS on Tuesday February 2nd from 9am-2:30pm and again on Wednesday February 3rd from 9am-2pm. Stop by for some books!



Cold Spring Harbor Central School District

The Francis Roberts Community Center

75 Goose Hill Road

Cold Spring Harbor, New York 11724-9813

(631) 367-5900

(631) 367-3108 (Fax)

“Opting In” to the State Assessments: Why Your Child’s Participation Matters

January 28, 2016

Dear Parent/ Guardian:

As we begin our preparation for the administration of the grades 3-8 state assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics, we want to thank Cold Spring Harbor teachers, parents and students for their participation last year. Last year Long Island had an exceptionally high rate of student test refusals and we are appreciative of the fact that our District’s rate was relatively low in comparison to many others. Your child’s participation provided Cold Spring Harbor with valuable information that has helped us as we work to constantly improve our instructional program. So, before the media hype begins once again this year, we would like to share some of the reasons why *your child’s participation matters*.

By “opting in,” you are:

- **Providing one additional source of information to teachers and administrators in ensuring that we are meeting your child’s needs.** We understand that student performance is more complex than a *single data point*; we do not rely on the results of this one test in making a recommendation for an educational program.
- **Providing an experience for your child to better prepare him/ her for future standards-based instruction and assessments such as Regents Exams and the SAT.** When students take the 3-8 assessments, they are gaining valuable experience for future assessments which are required to earn a Regents High School diploma and are also one important component of determining entrance to a college/university. We know that familiarity with a testing format results in better performance.
- **Ensuring that the District remains in good standing with the state and federal government with regard to our student participation in the assessments.**
Participation by 95% of our students is required over a two year period in addition to satisfactory student progress. These factors allow us to be recognized for excellence in various award programs such as a Reward School at the State level and a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence at the Federal level. As a school community, we take pride in the fact that we are recognized for academic excellence on an annual basis. We also do not want to run the risk of possible financial penalties if we do not reach the 95% participation rate. *Every dollar of State and Federal Aid counts!*
- **Supporting the hard work of our teachers and administrators** as they diligently prepare our students to compete in a global society that will require high levels of critical thinking and problem-solving.

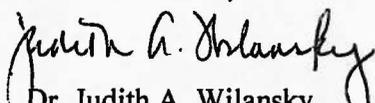
Last September, Governor Cuomo formed a Common Core Task Force to address the concerns of parents and educators. Based on the recommendations of the committee:

- Teacher evaluations will *not* be linked to student test performance for at least four years, which will provide the State ample time to develop a new and fair system of teacher evaluation.
- While the State has committed to a comprehensive review of the Common Core Standards, it is clear that more rigorous standards are here to stay.
- Student test scores will continue to be excluded from their permanent record as the State continues to hone the annual assessments with the valuable input of teachers.
- The Board of Regents, under the leadership of Commissioner Maryellen Elia, is committed to designing assessments that have fewer questions, thus, reducing the time spent taking the assessments. In addition, the State is examining ways to preserve test integrity but allow for the release of more questions from the assessments so that teachers can better ascertain any gaps in the curriculum or a student's learning profile.

We greatly appreciate all of the interest that our parents have shown by attending the workshops that we have offered on the State Assessments. We welcome your questions and encourage you to "check in" with your child's Principal, Mrs. Bellino, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction or Dr. Wilansky if you read something in the newspapers or on social media that concerns you.

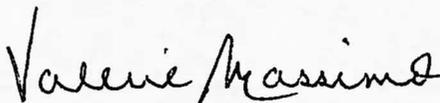
In sum, our children are at the heart of the curriculum and instruction and we are steadfast in our belief that our children should approach challenges with confidence – not stress. Annual assessments will continue to be a part of the educational landscape, as recently mandated by the Federal "Every Student Succeeds Act." Please be assured we remain committed to providing a challenging and enriching educational experience for your child that focuses on academic competence and personal confidence. That is a winning combination!

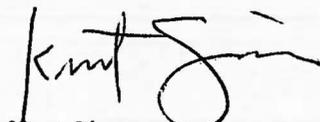
Sincerely,


 Dr. Judith A. Wilansky
 Superintendent of Schools


 Lydia Bellino
 Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction


 Lynn Herschlein
 Principal - Goosehill Primary School


 Valerie Massimo
 Principal - Lloyd Harbor School


 Kurt Simon
 West Side School


 Jay Matuk
 Cold Spring Harbor Jr/Sr High School

Please Join Us

Senator Carl Marcellino

*Chair of the Senate Education Committee
Member of the Governor's Common Core Task Force*

*Will share the findings and recommendations
of the Governor's Task Force
at the*

*Cold Spring Harbor
Central Parents Council (CPC)
Meeting*

*Thursday, February 4, 2016
9:30 am - 10:00 am
District Office Board Room*

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

For Families!

Sunday, January 31, 2016 @ 3 pm

Cinderella

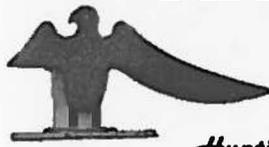


Performed by Plaza Theatrical

The most classic of all fairy tales springs to life in this fast-paced musical production! Featuring a professional cast and live music, all the ingredients that have made the story a perennial favorite are here - ragged Cinderella, her cruel stepmother and selfish stepsisters, the ball, the handsome prince looking for a bride, the fairy godmother, the glass slipper, the search for the foot that fits it, and the happily-ever-after ending! This musical will delight the young and the 'young at heart.'



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



TIRED OF MINDLESS MINECRAFT?

Huntington Historical Society

Break up the 2016 Winter Break! Bring the kids down to one of Huntington's Historic properties for one, two, three or all four of our fun and creative historical activities! There is something for everyone, grades 1 -5. Snack is included.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH: MINUTE MEN (AND WOMEN) 9:00 -12:30 at The Arsenal (across from the Kissam House, which is located at 434 Park Avenue).

During the Revolutionary War, Huntington had its very own militia of minute men. Learn about them, and make your own minute man uniform of shirt, tri-corner hat, and powder horn! Once we have our uniforms, we'll see who can be ready in a minute!!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH BE YOUR OWN FAMILY HISTORY DETECTIVE 9:00-12:30, Conklin Barn, 2 High Street

Learn about your own family and History and how to research it! We will discuss family trees, and everyone will put one together! Come with names of as many relatives as possible, and old photos

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18th: CIVIL WAR IN HUNTINGTON AND BEYOND 9-12:30, Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building 228 Main Street

The action may not have taken place here, but the whole nation was affected by the War between the States. Learn about the Civil War in the North, and the Huntington men who gave their lives for our Country. make a Spy Wheel, and design your own quilt square, used to guide slaves to freedom in the Underground Railroad.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH: DOLLY AND ME TEA 1:00 -3:00, Conklin Barn, 2 High Street

Bring your favorite American Girl or other Dolly, and "doll" yourself up for a doll discussion and delightful high tea and refreshments at the Historic Conklin Barn.

COST PER CLASS: \$30 per class for members, \$35 for non-members. (FOR any two classes, \$55/60 for three classes \$80/85, for all four classes, \$105/110).

CLASS SPACE IS LIMITED, CALL SOON TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!!!!

Please contact Wendy Andersen (631) 427-7045 ext. 404 or email
wandersen@huntingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

WHAT IS DEKHOCKEY? NO SKATES!

It's like street hockey -- but without the traffic!
Dekhockey is a running game similar to ice hockey,
played on a large rink with a low-impact plastic
surface. **NO BODY CHECKING ALLOWED.**

Try-game season and team shirt for only \$150
Schedules and player stats on nsdekhockey.com
Hour-long games - Sat or Sun. (w/ occasional Fri)
Sat/Sun start times from 9 am-5 pm
Season runs from Feb thru early April

Required equipment: Leg pads, elbow pads, gloves and hockey helmet with cage or a full shield

Discounted equipment packages available for \$150 if preordered

Registration for ages 5-7, 8-10 & 11-13 now through Sunday, January 31



A not-for-profit organization

PAL KIDS DEKHOCKEY LEAGUES

AT



115 Sherwood Avenue
Farmingdale, NY 11735

(1 mile south of Adventureland off Route 110)

Leagues also available for 14-17, Adult Men and Women!



REGISTER TODAY!

(631)249-4412 or online at www.nsdekhockey.com

DEKHOCKEY REGISTRATION

Child's name : _____ D.O.B. _____ Age ____ Goaltender? Only / Never /Want to try

Address: _____ Telephone# (_____)

E-mail: _____ Emergency contact/telephone#: _____ / (_____)

I/we, the parent(s) of the above named child, hereby give my/our consent for participation in the above activity and do claim that he/she is in perfect physical condition to participate in said activity. Furthermore, I/we, the parent(s) of the above named candidate for a position on a league team hereby give my/our approval to his/her participation in all league activities during the current season. I/we, assume all risks and hazards incidental to such participation including transportation to and from the activities; and I/we do hereby waive, release, absolve, indemnify and agree to hold harmless the Police Athletic League, Inc., associated organizations, the organizers, sponsors, supervisors, participants and persons transporting my/our child to or from activities, for any claim arising out of an injury to my/our child, except to the extent and in the amount covered by accident liability insurance.

The Suffolk County Police Athletic League has adopted a zero tolerance policy for violence. This includes physical acts of violence, threats of violence or threatening behavior. A violation committed by any participant (player, coach, referee) parent or fan, will result in immediate expulsion from the League and a fine to the organization to which he/she belongs.

Parent(s)/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Suffolk County PAL is a not-for-profit organization. This notice is distributed to students solely as a community service by the school district. Such distribution should not be considered an endorsement or approval by the district of either the sponsor or the activity.

www.nsdekhockey.com  **631-249-4412**

We will be "Freezin' for a Reason" at the 3rd Annual Town of Oyster Bay Polar Plunge



Special Olympics
New York

Saturday, March 19, 2016
TOBAY Beach, Ocean Parkway
Check-in between 9:30 - 11:00 am
PLUNGE at 11:30am



Last year over **400** Plungers braved the chilly waters while hundreds of spectators watched on. Help raise money for the athletes of Special Olympics New York by asking your friends, family, co-workers, etc. to support you in taking the **PLUNGE!** **Every Plunger that raises \$125 receives an official Plunge sweatshirt.....** raise more money and receive more great prizes!

**TOO CHICKEN TO PLUNGE
JOIN THE CHICKEN COOP!**



How do I get started?

Log onto www.polarplungeNY.org/tobay and click the **Register Here** button.

You can start a team, join a team or join as an individual.

Set up your Personal Plunge Page and you are on your way to "Freezin' for a Reason!"

Check out the site or Facebook page for more great information about team building and fundraising ideas!



Did you know?

Special Olympics New York has **65,665 athletes** training and competing year-round in 22 Olympics-style sports.

Our athletes and their families or caregivers are **NEVER CHARGED** to participate! Set your Plunge goal at \$400 and you have sponsored an athlete for an entire season!



Sign up today! www.polarplungeNY.org/tobay

[facebook.com/SONYpolarplungeTOBAY](https://www.facebook.com/SONYpolarplungeTOBAY)

Contact Information: Jennifer Cantone at jcantone@nyso.org or 631.254.1465 ext. 204

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