



# Goosehill Primary School

## Weekly Notes-December 18, 2015



Dear Parents,

At our Spirit Day Assembly yesterday, we discussed the concept of **diversity**. We taught the children that while human beings have so much in common (“on the inside”) we have many differences “on the outside.” We have different skin, hair, eyes, body types and sizes. We speak different languages, wear different clothing, have different traditions, and celebrate different holidays. Diversity makes the world an interesting place to be. How boring it would be if everything and everyone were the same! The most important message to our children is that we respect and honor each other’s differences.

At our assembly, we explored the commonalities among holidays celebrated by people of different cultures and religions. From Hanukkah to Christmas, Kwanzaa, Chinese New Year, Diwali, and Eid-al-Adha, we discovered that celebrations almost always included the same **five** things: *family, food, prayer, lights*, and *gifts* (especially for children!). No matter who we are, we all value our families, faith, fun, and showing kindness and love to others. Additionally, **lights** seem to be symbols of hope and joy for us all. At the assembly, we also sang songs, led by Mrs. Katz’s class and the First Grade Music Club. Thank you for taking the time to talk with your child about your family’s traditions. By sharing their own experiences, children learn from each other.

I hope you will enjoy some quiet time with your children over the upcoming break. I encourage you to include some family reading time as often as you can. Without the pressures of school schedules and homework, it is a perfect time for parents and children to settle into a good book together. It is not just the act of reading that benefits children. It is also the feeling that you create when you snuggle up with them, immerse yourselves in a story, talk about characters’ traits and actions, and make connections to people and events in your own lives. Conversations about stories help children learn the power of the written word—to create images and feelings in our minds and hearts.

Because of the short week next week, these will be the last Weekly Notes of 2015! The teachers, staff, and I want to thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our school community. We appreciate all you do to help your children grow and develop as the special, caring young people they are.

To our families celebrating Christmas and Kwanzaa next week, we wish you a joyous holiday!

We wish all our families peace, joy, and a New Year filled with health and happiness!

Warm regards,

Lynn Herschlein



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### **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 (631-367-5910)** to ensure that your child's name appears on the District census. Only those families whose child's name appears on the census will receive a registration packet from the Superintendent next month. Registration begins in February.

### **First Grade Clubs**

The first session of clubs will end next week. Students will receive a new form after break on which to indicate their interest in a January Club (Session II). Those who did not have a chance to participate in Session I will be assigned a club in Session II, which will start on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Lost and Found**

We have a number of sweaters, sweatshirts, and even coats in our Lost and Found. If your child is missing an item of clothing, please let us know so we can help you locate it. \*\*\*Please label all of your child's outerwear so that we can return it to you more readily!

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

- **January 4<sup>th</sup>**- School reopens
- **January 13<sup>th</sup>**- GPFA meeting 9:30 a.m.
- **January 15<sup>th</sup>**- Half Day of School for Students (Noon dismissal)
- **January 18<sup>th</sup>**- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day- No school for students

### **GPFA UPDATES**

The GPFA would like to thank all who helped bake, purchase and wrap plates of cookies for our wonderful staff. The plates came out gorgeous and were much appreciated. Special thanks to Erin Amadori, Edina Bobelian, Laurie Corallo, Anne Cynar, Alissa DiBlasio, Tara Dircks, Kaitlin Eisenegger, Meredith Emsden, Bernadette Flynn, Purvi Gandhi, Rebecca Goodkin-Carlin, Jeannine Henvey, Denise Ioannou, Kristine Jacobson, Janene Keegan, Amy Koenigsberger, Lisa Lesser, Lisa Olson, Susan Madigan, Claudia Marino, Shannon Millett, Irina Miretskiy, Vanessa Mostafa, Jackie Murray, Stacy Neri, Dawn O'Rourke, Rebecca Polimeni, Nicole Pultz, Ginette Reynolds, Jordan Smith, Lisa Smith, Julie Starrett, Edra Tepper, Kimberly Testa, Sarah Trust, Georgia Tsafos, Jenny Tsoumpas, Gwen Ugan, Blake Woodworth, Nancy Worden and Amy Yormack. Thanks also to Jill Seiman-Mayer and Melissa Leopard for organizing the effort!

Mark your calendars for our upcoming family fun nights! Kindergarten Family Fun night will be held Thursday, January 28th at 6pm and First Grade Family Fun Night will be Thursday, February 4th at 6pm. Siblings are welcome!

The GPFA will be running a Box Top competition during the month of January. Starting this January each class will collect as many box tops as possible and the top-collecting kindergarten and first grade class will win an extra recess! To participate, simply clip box tops at home and send them to school with your child in a baggie marked with your child's teacher's name.

The GPFA would like to wish Goosehill families and staff all the best over the holiday season and a happy and healthy 2016! We thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to more good things in the New Year!



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

## Little Scientists

**Tuesday, January 5, @ 2:00 pm**

**For Children in Preschool**

Explore the wonderful world of science with books, games, and hands-on activities!



## Tasty Tales & Treats

**Tuesday, January 5 @ 4:30 pm**

**For Children in 2nd Grade**

Join us for an awesome Book Discussion

We'll be reading:

*Lady Lollipop* by Dick King-Smith

Pick up your book TODAY!

## TEEN PROGRAM

**What's Changing on the  
NEW SAT**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 4 at 7:00 pm**

For high school students & their parents  
Come hear about the changes to the new SAT,  
how they will affect your child, and what your  
child can do to prepare and ace the exam!

## IN BETWEEN PROGRAM

**Scratch Video Game Programming**

**Mondays, at 7:00 pm**

**JANUARY 4 - FEBRUARY 22**

(no Session on 1/18 & 2/15)

For children on grades 5-8

Using Scratch programming, students will work together to create their own interactive video games, art and musical instruments while exploring coding

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

## For Families!

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

Our complete roster includes:

### Museums on Long Island :

- \* 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 made up to three months in advance of your desired date, subject to availability.



### Museums in Manhattan

- \* 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 or Service, contact  
Information Services at the Cold Spring Harbor Library at 631-692-6820.**