



Goosehill Primary School  
Weekly Notes-February 12, 2016



Dear Parents,

This week we celebrated the first 100 days of school. It's hard to believe we are more than halfway through the school year! The children have been working with the number 100 in a variety of ways, including counting by ones, twos, fives, and tens—an important practice for developing fluency and number sense. As a special treat during morning announcements, Zoe Wu and Anthony Jiang counted to ten in Chinese to help us honor Chinese New Year.

We had our kindergarten concert yesterday in recognition of all the growth the children have made in their first 100 days at Goosehill Primary School. Thank you to Mrs. Kotzky and the kindergarten teachers for organizing such a terrific experience for our youngest students. Thank you to all parents for helping the children to make such creative projects. They were so proud of themselves and enjoyed having you as their audience.

I hope you enjoy the time off with your family next week. Whether you are home or away, I hope you'll carve out some time to read to your children. Reading aloud to children helps them experience the excitement of interesting characters and plots in books they aren't quite ready to read on their own yet. When adults read aloud to children, they also model important reading behaviors and positive attitudes about reading. A landmark study about reading concluded that reading aloud to children is *"...the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading."* Reading to your child enhances his/her comprehension skills, and builds vocabulary and background knowledge. Just a few minutes a day makes a big difference! Here are a few suggestions:



- ◆ Try to carve out at least 10 minutes a day to read aloud to your child.
- ◆ Turn off other distractions, such as televisions and cell phones.
- ◆ Read with expression. Ham it up! Try creating different voices for different characters.
- ◆ **Think aloud as you read.** Tell your child who a character reminds you of, what the story makes you think or wonder, what something means, or what you predict will happen next.
- ◆ Encourage your child to ask questions and talk about the story.
- ◆ Your child may want to hear the same story over and over again. That's fine! After several retellings, have your child tell *you* the story.

Have a wonderful vacation~ Happy Valentine's Day and Happy Reading!

Stay warm,

Lynn Herschlein



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