



# Goosehill Primary School

## Weekly Notes-November 13, 2015



Dear Parents,

Throughout the school year, teachers assess their students' strengths and learning needs in all areas. They read and analyze their students' writing to determine what skills they have mastered and what they need to learn next. During math lessons, teachers observe their students as they work with numbers and solve problems. They review their students' classwork, homework, and unit assessments to see what skills and concepts they have learned and what may need to be retaught. Individual reading assessments are administered at least three times a year by the classroom teacher. During an individual reading assessment, the teacher listens to a child read an appropriately-leveled text and takes notes about his/her reading behaviors and skills. After the reading, the teacher asks the child to retell the story so she has an accurate assessment of his/her reading comprehension. As a school, we also administer short benchmark assessments to give us additional information about students' skills in order to provide them with targeted instruction which may involve support beyond the classroom. The support is called "AIS", which stands for Academic Intervention Services.

At Goosehill, AIS is provided for many students for short periods of time. We believe in giving children a "boost" right when they need it so that they continue to develop their skills without becoming frustrated. Sometimes AIS is provided ten minutes a day for 4-6 weeks when a teacher assistant might work with a child to practice blending sounds, spelling words, or learning sight words. This type of intervention is provided when a child is very close to achieving **benchmark** for that skill, or what we hope s/he will be doing at this point in the year. Parents will not receive formal notification of this service, as it is part of an ongoing process for giving students individual and small group attention. If you hear from your child's teacher that we would like to offer AIS in 30 minute sessions 3-5 times weekly, it means we have found an area in which your child needs some additional support in order to reach the benchmark level. The support will be provided in 6-8 week sessions and progress will be monitored closely. You will receive a letter outlining the service and will receive a progress report periodically.

Our goal is for all children to feel confident and competent as learners. Learning, especially learning to read, is fun when it has just the right amount of challenge; it isn't fun when it's too hard. Therefore, we believe in being pro-active in providing support so that children continue to develop a love of learning and become life-long readers.



I will be offering a Parent Workshop at the next GPFA meeting on Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 when I will discuss the reading skills children need in kindergarten and first grade and ways parents can support them. Please join us!

Warm regards,

Lynn Herschlein

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

#### Item

#### Page #

CSH Library Programs and Services for Kids, Teens and Adults.....3