



Goosehill Primary School

Weekly Notes-November 20, 2015



Dear Parents,

Thank you to the GPFA Board for organizing our Food Drive and to our teachers and parents for helping to fill the boxes with everything a family will need for Thanksgiving dinner. The boxes will be delivered this weekend to the Helping Hands Mission in Huntington Station. This activity was an important one for our students, as it prompted discussions at home and in school about *gratitude and caring for others*. Through such discussions, children can become more sensitive to the needs of others and begin to develop empathy. It helps them to recognize that their parents and other people do many things for them –provide a comfortable home, prepare dinner, buy them toys, help them learn---for which they can be grateful. They can begin to learn that not everyone may be as fortunate as they are and that sharing and helping others “feels good inside.”

At our Spirit Day Assembly yesterday we discussed what it means to be grateful for all that we have. The children sang songs that emphasized sharing, including others, and showing gratitude: “*The Welcome Table*,” and “*All I Really Need*.” We previewed our new “Buddy Benches” which were purchased through the generosity of the GPFA. A Buddy Bench is a special bench on a playground where children can sit if they are feeling excluded or lonely. If someone is sitting on the Buddy Bench, other children will know to invite him/her to play. We will have a brief ceremony after the Thanksgiving break to introduce our Buddy Benches. The last song we sang yesterday was “*Try New Foods*.” It encouraged flexibility and being willing to try new things, make new friends, and of course, to try new foods! We thought it was appropriate with all of the holiday festivities ahead!

The faculty, staff, and I hope you enjoyed **Family Focus Week**. We know how important family time is and wanted to support your efforts to spend unhurried time with your children. We look forward to reading the children’s responses to the week’s activities.

We have full days of school on Monday and Tuesday, November 23rd and 24th. Thanksgiving recess begins on Wednesday. We return to school on Monday, November 30th.

The faculty, staff, and I are grateful for your continued support. We wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Warm regards,

Lynn Herschlein

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