

Dear Parents,

At the GPFA meeting on Wednesday, I reviewed the report card categories and our approach to supporting our students' growth. Some important ideas were discussed and I would like to share some of them with you here.

**The first report card for the 2015-16 school year will be available today on the Parent Portal after 5:00 p.m. (If you haven't yet registered on the portal, please see the instructions on the reverse side of these Notes.)**

The Goosehill report card is designed to communicate your child's achievement in relation to the New York State Common Core Learning Standards. Our students are developing essential skills, learning complex ideas, and developing strategies that will help them achieve at high levels throughout their educational experience. They are working hard every day! Please remember that while a report card provides you with insight into your child's progress *at a moment in time*, it does not define him or her as a student. It is *one* part of our important home-school connection. We are working together to help all of our students develop confidence and competence so that learning is **enjoyable and rewarding**. When it is, they will seek new ideas, take risks, collaborate with others, and persevere when faced with a challenge---all essential ingredients for success!

**Performance levels** range from 1-4 and indicate where your child is performing in relation to *benchmarks* set for each marking period. If your child is **meeting expectations** (level 3), it means that s/he has learned the foundational concepts and skills expected at this point in the school year and can apply them with some level of independence. It is important to note that grade level expectations are quite high, so **a performance level of 3 is a commendable achievement**. Occasionally, a child demonstrates a strong ability to perform in a particular area and applies a skill consistently and independently. His/her performance may actually exceed expectations at points during the school year (level 4).

If your child **needs support to meet grade level expectations** (level 2), it means that while s/he is learning and demonstrating many of the skills s/he needs, s/he is not quite able to consistently apply them on his/her own yet. **Most children perform at level 2 in a few areas**, and their teachers target instruction to address those skills in the classroom. A child performing at level 2 *may* or *may not* be receiving Academic Intervention Services (AIS) at this time, but his/her progress is being monitored. \*\*\*Remember, at Goosehill we recognize that learning is part of a developmental process that involves many factors including age, readiness, and experience. All children develop at different rates and at different times. We provide extra support to many, many students whenever we think they need a little "boost." This is not a cause for alarm! Rather, it is part of a very comprehensive approach to meeting children's needs.

If your child is **having difficulty meeting grade level standards** (performance level 1) s/he is receiving AIS or other kinds of support in addition to classroom instruction. Your child's teachers will have shared their plans for teaching your child the necessary skills so that s/he can make steady progress toward meeting the expectations of the grade level.

**The Reading Stage** indicated on the report card is designed to give you information about the types of books your child is reading in school and the skills s/he is developing at this time. Children progress through reading stages in uneven ways! Some may linger in a stage and then have a burst of progress, while others start out moving quickly through stages and then deepen their skills within one stage for a few months. A list of books that correlate with the reading stages will be posted on the GH website under **Parent Information**. Please use it as a guide to help you choose books that are comfortable for your child to read at home. \*Please also remember to choose books at the stage that comes **before** your child's stage to ensure that s/he enjoys a lot of "high-success" reading at home, which helps to build fluency and comprehension.

When you review your child's report card, the teachers and I hope that you will take time to talk with your child about what is most important- **effort, achievement, kindness toward others, and positive attitudes about learning**. The teachers and I hope that the report card helps you celebrate your child's efforts and accomplishments in all areas, including social-emotional development and work habits, art, music, and physical education.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Warm regards,

Lynn Herschlein

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### HOW TO ACCESS YOUR CHILD'S REPORT CARD

\*\*\* Here are the instructions for **registering** on the Parent Portal of the CSH website: (You need your child's student ID # which was provided to you in the August class placement letter and Orientation Folder. It is the same number you use for the school lunch Meal Pay program.)\*\*\*

1. Go to the CSH webpage ([www.csh.k12.ny.us](http://www.csh.k12.ny.us))
2. Go to the pull down menu "*For Parents*" and click on "*Parent Portal*"
3. Scroll all the way down to "*How can I apply for access to the portal?*" and click the blue link
4. The eSchoolData login screen will open. Click on "*Online Registration*" (bottom of the box).
5. You will be asked to fill out information on three tabs. Once all parts have been filled out you will receive an email indicating that your registration information has been submitted.

**IF YOU ARE ALREADY REGISTERED on the portal:** Scroll to the bottom to ***Related Links*** and click on the link for the ***Parent Portal Log-in Page***. <https://parentportal.eschooldata.com/>

### **Thank you to the GPFA for our Buddy Benches!**

We had a short, sweet ceremony yesterday to introduce our students to the Buddy Benches on our playground. Thank you to Mrs. Kotzky and our First Grade Music Club members Christiana Calvo, Kelsey Miller, Lucia Moretta, Audrey Davidian, and Juliette Barry for performing their skit so beautifully and leading us in the song, "*Make New Friends*." Thank you to all of the parents and Mrs. Domjan for helping to make our "*I Am a Great Buddy*" buttons!

**Thank you to all of our parents** who made and packaged such delicious treats for our staff. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated.



### GPFA UPDATES

Thanks to all who attended the GPFA meeting this past week. Special thanks to Mrs. Herschlein for her helpful discussion about report cards and to our special area teachers, Mrs. Kotzky (music), Mr. Malone (gym) and Ms. Johnson (art) for talking with us about their important roles at Goosehill. The next GPFA meeting is scheduled for January 13th at 9:30am. Mrs. Herschlein and some of our teachers will be running a math workshop for parents to learn about ways we can support our children and their developing math skills.

The GPFA would like to thank Jill Seiman-Mayer and Melissa Leopard for organizing the Holiday Cookie Bake this year. Thanks also to all of our parents who volunteered to bring in baked goods. We were able to wrap plates of goodies for all of the wonderful staff members at Goosehill to show our appreciation for all that they do for our children and the school.