



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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