

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all who attended Wednesday's GPFA meeting. I hope you will attend as many meetings as you can this year! At each meeting, the teachers and I will be presenting on topics that will help you support your child's academic and social-emotional development. Additionally, the GPFA will be providing speakers to address important and timely topics for parents. Next month's topic will be nutrition and how to provide healthy meals for your busy family. Check these notes in the coming weeks for more information.

At this month's meeting, our school psychologist, **Mrs. Schmid**, special education and AIS teachers, Mrs. Wolf and Ms. Shalley, reading teacher, **Mrs. Unger**, and Speech-Language teacher, **Ms. McDevitt**, shared some helpful and important tips for ways you can help your child succeed in school. Here is a sampling of them:

1. **Read to your child every day.** Reading aloud to children helps build their sense of story, knowledge base, vocabulary, and a love of reading.
2. **Play word games with your child.** Together, try naming words that start with the sound of m (or any other consonant). Try coming up with as many words as you can that rhyme with *day* (or any other simple word). Activities like this help children hear the sounds in words, which is critical to the development of reading and writing skills.
3. **Let your child be bored!** Children need "down time" and time to figure out how to amuse themselves. It will support creativity and their ability to delay gratification, an important life skill.
4. **Children need a lot of practice to develop skills.** Let them read to you, write a thank you note, count things in your home, practice forming their letters in fun ways (such as writing in shaving cream, soap bubbles, or making letters with sticks or Play-doh).
5. **Many of our students receive extra support called Academic Intervention Services (AIS).** All children develop at different rates and have different strengths and needs. Our classroom and AIS teachers work collaboratively to ensure that all of our students get the instruction and practice they need to grow and develop as competent and confident learners.

Next Friday at 9:30, is a second opportunity for parents to become "certified" as Lunch-Recess volunteers. That meeting will be followed by a "*Chat with the Principal*" meeting where we will discuss current school happenings and procedures, and parents will have an opportunity to ask questions and share ideas. I hope you'll join us! We will have a "*Chat with the AIS Team*" in November so parents can learn more about the support services we provide at Goosehill. (SEPTO is offering a workshop specifically about Speech & Language and Occupational Therapy (OT) services at their October 17th meeting. Join them in the District Office at 9:45 for an informative presentation.)

We appreciate your active involvement in your child's education. Our partnership is what makes our school as wonderful as it is.

Enjoy the beautiful fall weekend,

Lynn Herschlein