

Dear Parents,

Thank you for attending our Halloween Festivities! The children had a wonderful time singing for you and parading in their costumes. Thank you to the GPFA for purchasing the pumpkins for the children and all of the parents who helped decorate them and who organized crafts for the children. Thank you to Mrs. Kotzky for a fun-filled sing-along!

As you know, Tuesday is Election Day. It is a full day of school. Our social studies curriculum involves teaching children about community, laws, and the basics of government. Election Day gives us an opportunity to teach children about the important act of voting. The children will have a chance to cast their own secret ballot on a very important referendum on Tuesday: Should we have a *Pajama Day* OR a *Silly Hat Day* on Friday, November 17th? We will let you know the winner via eBlast.

As part of our school theme on kindness, all students in our school will have a different kind of homework next week. You will receive a letter on Monday explaining the week's homework which will involve your family in activities related to showing kindness to others. Your family's **Kindness Choice Board** will be attached to the letter. We hope it helps you engage your child in conversation about the importance of being a kind and caring person, and ways to show kindness to others.

Thank you for all of your donations for the **Thanksgiving Food Baskets**. We can still accept donations through Thursday. Our school service projects are another way we teach children about showing kindness and generosity to others. Thank you to the GPFA for organizing this project for us!

You will receive another packet on Monday explaining our second school-wide service project, "**Backpacks for Buddies**," which we will begin next week. The goal of the project is to fill backpacks for children in Puerto Rico who lost so much during the recent hurricanes. We are careful not to emphasize the effects of the hurricanes and the magnitude of the losses as that can be troubling for young children. Instead, we focus on the outpouring of support that people show one another in times of difficulty.

Here are some additional updates and reminders:

- The next GPFA meeting is on Wednesday, 11-8 at 9:30. The GPFA has arranged for a nutritionist to speak about ways to encourage children's healthy eating habits. The second half of the meeting will focus on our school's Social-Emotional Literacy (SEL) program. I will explain how we use it to teach social skills and in our approach to discipline. I hope you'll join us!
- Our next **half day of school is on Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**. We will no longer be able to accept bus stop changes on half days of school as it results in too much confusion. Thank you for your cooperation.
- **On Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, join us for the second "Chat with the Principal" meeting.** This month, we are adding a component- "**Chat with the AIS Team**" to answer parents' questions about how we provide extra support for our students in reading and math.
- With November here, we are expecting cooler weather. Please send your child to school wearing a jacket for outdoor recess. Please LABEL all outerwear!
- Be sure to follow us on Twitter! @CSHGoosehill

Have a nice weekend!

Lynn Herschlein