



## Goosehill Primary School

Dear Parents,

Thank you to the GPFA for a wonderful family *Welcome-Back Picnic* on Friday! It was a beautiful afternoon and everyone had a terrific time. The children loved the bounce houses, obstacle course, and playing on our new climbing star. Thank you to all of the parents who organized dinners and desserts for our families. It was a great way to begin the year together!

The children have really settled into the structure and routines of school. As I visit the classrooms, I am impressed with how they are spending increasing amounts of time on tasks such as reading, writing, sorting, counting, and practicing their handwriting. Success in school requires a certain level of stamina! Teachers know that children build stamina gradually. Each day they increase the level of complexity and add a few minutes to the learning tasks so that children build capacity without becoming frustrated.

Reading stamina can be supported at home. Parents know how important it is that children develop the habits and skills of lifelong readers. Here are some tips that will help children develop stamina and a positive attitude towards reading:

**Make time for reading.** If possible, schedule a family reading time for a few minutes every day—when every member of the family reads. Begin with just five minutes when all electronic devices are turned off and everyone in the family reads something enjoyable to him/herself. If you stick to it and gradually increase the amount of time spent reading, daily reading will become a natural part of your child's life.

**Avoid over-scheduling.** In order to create “space” in your child's day for reading, there has to be time. Children need “down” time in their lives as much as they need physical activity and socialization. Although it may be tempting, try not to commit your child to too many activities during the week.

**Model a literate life.** Family reading time is one way to show your child that reading is what people do to be entertained and informed. You will create a lasting impression by having your child see you reading newspapers, magazines, novels, and informational texts (which also include things like travel guides, recipe books, and instruction manuals) on a regular basis. Visit the library and bookstore with your child. Subscribe to magazines your child will love and celebrate when they arrive in the mail. Of course, reading electronic texts is just as important. Balance is the key.

If you would like to learn more about ways you can help your child grow as a reader, plan to attend a workshop on the topic on Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 in the Goosehill Library. Hope to see you there!

Have wonderful weekend!

Lynn Herschlein, Principal