



Goosehill Primary School

Weekly Notes- May 8, 2015



Dear Parents,

With just seven weeks of school remaining, we have begun the process of preparing our students and their families for the transition to the next school year. An important skill to help children develop is the ability to deal with change. All change, whether it's the end of the school year or the move to a new home, brings some sadness and uncertainty as well as anticipation and excitement. Our goal is to provide opportunities that will help our students understand the upcoming changes and feel comfortable asking questions and sharing any concerns they may have. While we address the changes that each group of students will experience, we keep things simple. Children don't need to be overly concerned about the future! We simply want them to feel confident that no matter which school they attend or classroom they are assigned, they will be safe, comfortable, and happy.

While our current kindergarten students will have the simplest transition next year, we want them to get to know a little about first grade before they leave for the summer. Beginning at the end of May, each kindergarten class will make a weekly visit to a first grade class for "*Buddy Reading*." The first graders will give their kindergarten "buddies" a tour of their classroom and then they will spend time reading their favorite books and/or their own writing to each other. The teachers and I believe this experience helps build excitement while easing the transition to first grade for our kindergarten students.

Our first graders will visit West Side and Lloyd Harbor Schools in June for the very same reasons. They will ride a "big bus" to their new schools where they will have a tour and spend time in the second grade classrooms. Our first grade teachers are very skilled at helping the children feel comfortable about moving on to second grade. They answer their questions about each of the schools and assure them that they are ready for second grade. The teachers acknowledge that the children may be sad that some of their friends will be attending a different school and reassure them that they will continue to have good friends in their new schools. Parents often help their children maintain "across town" friendships through play dates and of course, all of the children will be together again in seventh grade.

Parents of current first graders received an invitation today to attend an Orientation Meeting at Lloyd Harbor and West Side School on May 28th. There will also be a parent-to-parent meeting (sponsored by FOCUS) on June 3rd at Goosehill where current second grade parents will share tips with first grade parents.

While we think about the future, we are still very busy and focused on the present! The children are learning new things every day and using the skills they have developed this year in exciting ways. We look forward to celebrating their successes with you at upcoming events, such as classroom literacy celebrations and Field Day. Information about all of our events will be shared with you in the coming weeks.

Enjoy the beautiful weekend! Happy Mother's Day!

Warm regards,

Lynn Herschlein

