



# Goosehill Primary School

## Weekly Notes- June 12, 2015



Dear Parents,

The children had a terrific time at Field Day yesterday! Thank you to Mr. Malone for creating the Dr. Seuss games for them to enjoy. The connection to the stories they know and love made it even more fun for the children! Thank you to our staff members who worked hard to run the games and cheer on the children. Thank you to Mrs. Koke and Mrs. Miller who chaired the event, and to all the parents who supplied water and watermelon (twice!). The children also enjoyed a slush pop in the afternoon, courtesy of the GPFA. We appreciate all the support of our parent community. We couldn't do it without you!

This morning I presented a workshop for parents on ways to encourage and support reading over the summer. Here are some of the ideas we discussed:

- ✚ The best predictor of summer loss or summer gain is whether or not a child reads during the summer. Just 15 minutes a day can make a huge difference for a young reader.
- ✚ Children don't just need books...*they need the right books*— books that match their skill levels and their interests. High-success reading is essential. If a child struggles to read a book, it won't be fun. If reading isn't fun, a child will do everything s/he can to avoid it! Find books that are "comfortable" for your child, where s/he has to stop to decode only a few words in the whole book. Let him/her choose books and magazines that interest him/her. Joke and riddle books are great options for reluctant readers. They provide immediate gratification—*they make people laugh!* Children are more likely to become lifelong readers when reading is pleasurable. Find what your child likes and build from there.
- ✚ We've created a "Summer Reading Game Board" for our kindergarten students. We hope it will foster the desire to read and help them vary their choices. Our first graders will receive summer reading ideas from Lloyd Harbor and West Side, but are welcome to use the Goosehill Reading Game Board too!
- ✚ Visit the public library – often. Your library can often serve as the best resource to keep your child reading over the summer. Ms. Caitlin Sempowich, the CSH Youth Services Librarian, and Maura Powers-Smith visited our students on Wednesday to tell them about the library's Summer Reading Club. Check your child's HW folder for the flyer describing the program and inviting them to the Kick-Off on June 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
- ✚ Explore online reading sites for young readers. For example, [www.storylineonline.net](http://www.storylineonline.net) is a free site (sponsored by the Screen Actors Guild) featuring actors who creatively read books aloud.
- ✚ Most importantly, read aloud to your children regularly. Reading aloud to your child builds comprehension, vocabulary, and a love of reading. It is the single most effective way to promote your child's success in school.



Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs. Herschlein

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