



Goosehill Primary School

Weekly Notes- November 14, 2014



Dear Parents,

Our math series is a program aligned with the New York State Common Core Learning Standards called **EnvisionMath**. The program engages our students through the use of math stories, video, math manipulatives, and cooperative problem solving. An introductory video illustrates the day's focus and is followed by the teacher-directed lesson. Next, the teacher may use interactive software to explore the topic further or involve the children in hands-on activities. A segment of guided practice is followed by a period of independent work or math games when the children apply what they have learned. The teacher also plans math learning centers so that the children have additional time to practice the skills they are learning. Throughout the math period, the teacher meets with small groups and individual students to guide and support them in their work. Finally, homework is assigned so that your child has the opportunity to apply his/her skills at home and engage in additional practice.

At Wednesday's GPFA meeting one of our kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Cooper, provided tips for parents to help support their children with math homework:

- Read the directions with or to your child. This is most important, as sometimes the reading level of the directions is above the child's grade level.
- Read through the math booklet that is sent home- especially the Home-School Connection section.
- Make flashcards of the vocabulary---or just use it in conversation!
- **Play the game.** This is a wonderful way to help your child practice what s/he is learning.
- Get the highlighted book from the library and read it to your child.
- Log on to the website and watch the video with your child.
- Assemble a box of handy materials and tools such as manipulatives (counters—such as pennies, checkers, beans), a ruler, a blank ten frame, etc.

In order to provide you with more information and ways to support your child's developing math skills, teachers are sending home a letter today containing instructions which will enable you to access the online portion of the **Envision** program. Once you log on, you will click on the word **Explore** in the top right corner. Then click on a topic your child is studying. Click on **View** to view the video introducing the topic and then **My Books** and the **Open Book** icon to see the student materials. There is even a Glossary with visual supports to help you define mathematical terms for your child.

The teachers and I hope that this resource will help you support your child. Remember, if your child seems to have difficulty with a concept, please let the teacher know. We do not expect you to re-teach concepts to your child! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Lynn Herschlein

Dates to remember

- **November 19th**- Spirit Day! Wear school apparel or school colors.
- **November 20th**-Parent Reading Workshop- How Parents Can Support Children's Reading Comprehension Skills