



Goosehill Primary School

Weekly Notes- December 5, 2014



Dear Parents,

An important component of the New York State Social Studies framework for kindergarten and first grade involves teaching children about diversity. Here are a few concepts from the curriculum:

- Children, families, and communities exhibit cultural similarities and differences.
- Language, beliefs, customs, and traditions help shape the identity and culture of a family and a community.
- Diverse cultural groups embrace unique traditions and beliefs, and celebrate distinct holidays.
- Awareness of America's rich diversity fosters intercultural understanding.

When teaching children about diversity, we emphasize that all people are the same on the "inside" and have many, wonderful differences on the "outside." We celebrate and respect people's differences in the way they look, dress, speak, and celebrate holidays. Because many of our families celebrate a holiday in December, the children are very interested in the topic. In many classrooms, children are choosing to write about their family traditions and holidays and teachers provide opportunities for them to share their stories with each other.

Reading books together is a perfect way to start a conversation about the traditions of families that may be different from your own. Of course, there are many, many wonderful books to be found in the library and book stores. Try series such as My First Holiday series by Karen Katz and Rookie Read About Holidays to help you explore holidays and traditions around the world.

Happy Reading!



Warm regards,

Lynn Herschlein

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Thanksgiving Food Drive

We received a lovely thank you note from the Helping Hands Mission. They expressed gratitude for the nine wonderful Thanksgiving baskets we sent, as well as over \$400 in donations which helped them purchase additional turkeys for Thanksgiving. Thank you again, to the GPFA for organizing the drive and delivering the baskets. If you'd like to read the thank you note, it is in our Table of Contents today.