



Goosehill Primary School

Weekly Notes- September 12, 2014

Dear Parents,

Thank you to the GPFA for a wonderful family *Welcome-Back Picnic* on Friday! It was a beautiful summer evening and everyone had a terrific time. The children loved the bounce houses and slide, dancing with the DJ, and of course, playing on our new playground. Thank you to the committee for arranging pizza for our families. It was a great way to begin the year together!

On Wednesday, we had our first **Spirit Day** assembly. On Spirit Days, we ask all of the members of our school community to wear school colors: *red, white, and blue*. Many children wear school apparel, made available for purchase from the GPFA. At our monthly assemblies teachers, staff members, and I speak to the children about ideas and issues that connect us as a school. We also sing songs, celebrate children's work, watch short performances by individual classes, and review components of our Social Emotional Literacy (SEL) Program.

The first component of our SEL program is a charter. A charter is similar to a set of guidelines, or rules, but its focus is on fostering a sense of community. **Classroom Charters** are being developed in all classrooms and a **School Charter** has been developed with the input of all of our students. During grade level assemblies, the students responded to the following questions: "*How do we want to feel in school? What should we do to make sure all of us feel that way?*" and "*What can we do if someone breaks our charter?*" The document serves as an anchor in all of our discussions with children about appropriate behavior, making helpful choices, and engaging in positive interactions with all members of our school community. I will share our School Charter with you next week.

In addition to a review of our School Charter, here are a few of the other ideas shared at our assembly:

- The United States of America is our **country**. It is a part of our **world**.
- Living in a country is like being part of a big, special club. We are all members!
- We call members of a country **citizens**. Being a good **citizen** means you are helping your country be the best it can be. Some of the ways we can show good citizenship are: *helping others, welcoming new neighbors and friends, sticking up for each other, cleaning up after ourselves, and showing respect to our country's flag*.
- We are members of a school community. By being good citizens, following our charter, and trying our best, we help Goosehill be a safe, happy school where everyone can learn and have fun.
- We also discussed the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance and how we say it together to show respect for our country.

You will hear more about your child's Classroom Charter at Back to School Night next week. You will also receive a Mood Meter magnet, courtesy of our GPFA. The Mood Meter is another component of our SEL program. You will be learning about it in the weeks to come.

We are looking forward to seeing you Tuesday evening when you will learn more about your child's school experience. Please see the reverse side of this page for details about **Back to School Night at Goosehill Primary School**.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Warmly,

Lynn Herschlein, Principal