



Goosehill Primary School

Weekly Notes-January 20, 2017



Dear Parents,

In her book, *Mind in the Making*, Ellen Galinsky outlines seven essential skills every child needs. One of those is the ability to be a **self-directed, engaged learner**. Encouraging your child’s passions and interests and celebrating his/her learning will help your child develop the habits of mind that support life-long learning. **Dinner conversations about learning** are a great place to start! Here are some ideas for ways to talk with your child and help him/her be an engaged, lifelong learner:

Ask about what s/he is learning in school. Have him/her teach you what he learned in school today — putting the lesson into his own words will help him retain what s/he learned. It will also help you find ways to build upon that learning at home.

Encourage your child to express his opinions. Ask your child what he thinks about a topic or an issue (e.g. a school or home rule) and encourage him/her to provide reasons to support his/her opinion.

Show enthusiasm for your child's interests and encourage him/her to explore topics that fascinate him/her. If your child loves talking about a particular animal or sport, help him learn more about it by exploring books and websites on the topic. Encourage him/her to write or draw about what s/he learns.

Point out the new things you learn with enthusiasm. Talk to your child about what you are learning so that s/he sees learning as a lifetime endeavor. Incorporate our SEL words of the month into your conversation. (**brave/courageous**) Sometimes people have to be courageous when trying something new or doing something that is challenging for them.

Focus on strengths and encourage developing talents. Acknowledge what your child does well and encourage him/her to continue to develop his/her skills in this area. Talents in athletics and the arts are as important as those in academic areas.

Celebrate achievements, no matter how small. Give your child credit for what s/he achieves. *Progress*, not *perfection*, should be the goal!

Our students learn so much every day! They work hard to develop new skills, and we want them to experience the joy that comes with learning new things...at school *and* at home.

Warm regards,
Lynn Herschlein

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(notices you can access at our website and read/print from home)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Page #</u>
Cold Spring Harbor Library Programs.....	3
Heckscher Museum of Art Family Hour.....	4
Town of Oyster Bay Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics.....	5

Important Dates

- January 25 End of Boxtops contest
- January 26- Spirit Day- Wear school colors or apparel
 - Kindergarten Family Fun Night 6:00
- February 2- First Grade Family Fun Night 6:00