



Goosehill Primary School

Weekly Notes-March 10, 2017



Dear Parents,

Next Friday is the first parent-teacher conference day. On conference days (3/17, 3/24, 3/31), all elementary students will be dismissed at 11:50. The children also have a half day of school the following Friday (April 7) as the entire staff will have a professional development day.

Parent-teachers conferences are an important component of our home-school connection. When teachers and parents work together, children benefit in countless ways. Please consider the following ideas as you prepare for this mid-year conference with your child's teacher:

- **All learners develop at different rates and in different ways.** Your child's teacher will help you know the areas in which your child is performing comfortably and the areas in which s/he needs some support at this time. Please remember that if your child needs support in some areas of the curriculum, it is okay. The teacher will let you know what she is doing to address your child's needs.
- **Each semester, the expectations are higher.** Therefore, your child may receive the same grade as s/he did in December. Although the grade is the same, it represents significant growth. Your child has learned and applied increasingly complex skills!
- **Children's skills are strengthened when they have many opportunities for practice.** Ask your child's teacher what you can do to provide support at home. Just 10 minutes a day can make a world of difference. For example:
 - ✓ **Make time for your child to read aloud to you.** Make sure the books are comfortable enough so that it is not a chore for your child. Reading "easy" books (and rereading books many times) builds fluency, automaticity, and confidence.
 - ✓ **Practice sight words.** You can make sight words into flashcards, or make them into a Matching, Memory, or Go Fish game.
 - ✓ **Play Math games-** anything involving counting or adding. Here's one idea: Take decks of cards (remove the picture cards). Shuffle and deal all the cards to the players. Each player lays down two cards. The player with the greatest sum wins each round! (like "War" but with addition)
- **Your child's performance in *all* areas of the curriculum, including art, music, and physical education, is important.** If you would like to schedule an appointment with Mrs. Beneville, Mrs. Kotzky, or Mr. Malone, please call the Main Office.
- **The best way to support your child's growth and confidence as a learner is to *celebrate and encourage effort and perseverance.*** Let your child know how proud you are of how hard s/he works in school to be the very best student s/he can be.

Report cards will be available on the portal after 5 p.m. on Thursday 3/16. You can print your child's report card from home and bring it with you to the conference.

*Please remember, **changes in bus stop cannot be accommodated on half days.** (The children ride home with different children on half days.) Please keep your child's usual dismissal plan. If a change is necessary, please review it with your child in the morning and send a note to the teacher. **Remember, we must receive any dismissal changes in your child's backpack in the morning.** Please avoid calling the office to make a change to your child's dismissal plan once the school day has begun as it causes a disruption to classes and impacts instructional time. We appreciate your cooperation.

Have a great weekend! Remember to "*Spring Forward!*"

Warm regards,
Lynn Herschlein

