



Goosehill Primary School

Weekly Notes-March 31, 2017



Dear Parents,

At this point in the year, I am sure you are noticing the incredible growth your child is making as a reader. Learning to read is no small feat! It is a complex process that requires explicit instruction, lots of practice, and most importantly, careful nurturing. In our classrooms, the teachers provide rich instruction and a variety of opportunities for their students to practice their reading. The children read books, articles, poems, song lyrics, electronic texts, and enjoy reading independently and with partners. Teachers foster a love of reading by modeling their own appreciation for books, reading wonderful stories and informational texts aloud, and providing quiet, sustained time for their students to read every day. Parents also play a critical role in ensuring that their children develop the habits of lifelong readers. Here are some tips for parents from the National Association of Elementary School Principals:

- Always have books on hand. Keep a book in your bag or your car's glove compartment so your child can read in the car or while waiting in line at the grocery store.
- Make regular trips to the library. Introduce your child to a series or ask your librarian for books by the same author to help your child develop his/her own favorites.
- Focus on your child's interests. Encourage your child to check out books that feature characters or topics he or she is interested in. Don't forget poetry and joke & riddle books!
- Consider subscribing to a magazine for kids. Children love getting mail!
- Read aloud to your child regularly. Use different voices for different characters, or invite your child to make sound effects for the story. Build from a few minutes a day to as long as your child is interested.
- Consider how to make reading a daily habit. Your family could have a set time when everyone reads (including you!) or you can read to your child before bed or at breakfast in the morning.
- Cut the distractions. During reading time, turn off or put away electronic devices.
- Ask your child about what he or she is reading in school or what you are reading together. Try open-ended questions such as, "*Why do you think the character did that?*," "*What would you do if you were in that situation?*," or "*What do you think will happen next?*"
- Be a patient listener when your child reads aloud to you. No matter how slowly your young learner reads, avoid finishing sentences for him/her.
- Read beyond books. Invite your child to read menus, greeting cards, newspaper comics, or websites about your next vacation destination.
- Be careful not to make reading seem a chore that needs to be done "*before you can play!*"



Make reading a priority in your home and remember that people choose to do activities they enjoy and make them feel good. Cuddle up with your child-- read, talk, laugh over books. Make reading fun!

Enjoy the weekend-*Happy Reading!*

Mrs. Herschlein



Parent Workshop (rescheduled): How to Help Your Child Develop Reading Comprehension Skills- Friday, April 21st. 9:30-10:30