



Goosehill Primary School

Weekly Notes-April 21, 2017



Dear Parents,

Because Earth Day is tomorrow, we have been celebrating the Earth in a variety of ways in our classrooms and school. The children have been engaged in creative projects using recyclable materials and learning about ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle! We hope your family is enjoying the **Family Focus Homework**. Hopefully you will enjoy the outdoors with your children this weekend. Please also ask your child all s/he's learned about respecting and enjoying the natural world. Yesterday, some of our first graders shared the collaborative and creative work they did in their Morning Clubs. The Library Club shared interesting facts about the earth and the Art Club shared the beautiful murals they created depicting precious animals of the earth and sea. Additionally, our Leaders Club presented a skit about our words of the month: **sensitive, thoughtful, and self-control**. We hope you will ask your child about these words and use them in your interactions with them at home. Finally, we had a small group of children perform a skit-"The Three Little Pigs." What fun! Our students love to create, collaborate, and perform!

Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate so our outdoor Earth Day activities have been postponed until next Friday. Our GPFA Green and Beautification Committees will engage the children in Earth Day recess games and the planting of flowers around our building.

As the weather gets nicer, here are some ideas, courtesy of the National Audubon Society, for ways to engage your children in outdoor learning and play after school and on weekends:

* **I Spy:** Draw your children's attention to the natural world whenever you can, whether you're walking outside or looking out the window. Simple statements like, "Look at those baby flowers pushing out of the ground!" or "I see a bird making its nest." will invite children to observe and engage in the natural world around them.

* **Fresh Air Fun:** Find ways to maximize your children's time outside. Make backyard and park play a regular part of their activities. Children need to run, climb, and roll down grassy hills!

* **Keep it Simple:** Children don't need a carload of tools and toys to entertain themselves outdoors. A simple pail and shovel may be all they need. Let them use their imaginations!



* **Moon Walk:** Go for a nighttime walk. Take a flashlight and explore one area not lit up by electric lights. What do you see? Hear? Smell?

* **Home Tweet Home:** Make a bird feeder and start feeding and watching birds out your window.



* **Bug Watch:** Head outdoors and have your children find as many different kinds of insects as they can. Bring a magnifying glass for a close-up look!

* **Harvest Time:** As often as possible, take your children to orchards, wild berry patches, farms, and other places where they can pick fruits and vegetables. Grow some of your own in a backyard garden.

* **Car-Free and Care-Free:** Try to replace at least one car trip a week with a walk or a bike ride. It's healthy for people and the environment.

Happy Earth Day! Enjoy the weekend!-----Lynn Herschlein

