



Goosehill Primary School

Weekly Notes- September 16, 2016



Dear Parents,

Thank you for attending Back to School Night last night! Your involvement and commitment to your child's education has a powerful impact on his/her success in school. We look forward to working with you this year and supporting your efforts to help your child grow and develop as a confident, independent young learner. Through our partnership with the GPFA, SEPTA, and FOCUS, we will be offering workshops throughout the year about child development, positive discipline, and how to support your child's developing skills in all areas.

Amazing academic, social, and emotional growth happens in kindergarten and first grade! You can help build your child's **confidence** by recognizing all of his/her **efforts** in school. Research shows it is more important to praise effort and perseverance than achievement! We also know the importance of teaching children to manage their own materials and be responsible for completing tasks independently. You can support your child's developing **independence** by allowing him/her to take responsibility for tasks at home. It is also important to model and support your child as s/he begins to **make decisions and choices**—another important skill. Here are some ideas to consider:

- ✓ Have your child unpack his/her backpack when s/he gets home from school. Establish a routine for where papers go, how to set up for reading and HW assignments, and emptying the lunchbox.
- ✓ Involve your child in making decisions about lunch and snack. Look at the school menu together and talk about the choices. If lunch will be packed, plan the "menu" the night before.
- ✓ Lay out clothes for the next day. Allow your child to make simple choices from a set of options you are prepared to accept.
- ✓ Let your child participate in simple household chores, such as setting the table, unpacking groceries, and putting away his/her toys.
- ✓ When homework involves a choice of activities, help your child review and consider them. Talk about the benefits and drawbacks of each choice and allow your child to make his/her own decision.

As adults, we know that it takes more time for children to do things or decide things for themselves than it does for us to go ahead and *do* or *decide* for them. However, if we keep the goals of independence and confidence in mind, we realize that teaching and then expecting children to make decisions and complete tasks on their own is well worth our time and effort. By **gradually** releasing responsibility to children and praising their efforts, we help them develop the capacity to make good choices and complete tasks independently---both of which are skills that are essential to their success in school...and life!

On another note, we will be saying farewell to our wonderful school secretary, Mrs. Barbara Grieco, next week. Mrs. Grieco will assume the position of secretary to the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Lydia Bellino. Mrs. Grieco has been an integral member of the Goosehill Primary School staff for many, many years. I know she has assisted every family at one time or another since your first days here! Thankfully, Mrs. Grieco will just be around the corner in the District Office, and we will be able to call on her anytime for her wisdom and assistance, or just to say hello. We wish her all the best in her new and exciting venture!

We look forward to seeing your family at the picnic this afternoon! Have a wonderful weekend!

Warm regards,

Lynn Herschlein



Please see the reverse side of this notice for important information.