



Goosehill Primary School

Weekly Notes- October 14, 2016



Dear Parents,

At Goosehill Primary School, we are committed to the education of the “whole child.” We know it is just as important to help children learn to manage their emotions and build positive relationships as it is to teach them to read and write. Recent research findings have added to a growing body of evidence which suggests that if we want children to lead fulfilling and productive lives, we have to help them develop social and emotional skills like self-regulation and social awareness-- skills that are necessary for building friendships and succeeding in school.

To accomplish the goal of developing children’s social-emotional skills, teachers model and reinforce acts of kindness, appropriate interactions, and positive language. Our district’s Social Emotional Literacy (SEL) program, “*The RULER Approach*,” includes lessons on identifying, expressing, and regulating emotions. While all teachers teach Ruler lessons, Mrs. Fuller (our school social worker) and Mrs. Schmid (our school psychologist) teach specialized SEL lessons in our classrooms. They work closely with the teachers to tailor lessons to meet each class’s specific needs.

Another aspect of our comprehensive SEL program is called **Friendship Club**, which has just begun to “meet” during the lunch schedule. The “club” meets in Mrs. Schmid’s office where the children eat lunch and then go to recess together. Some of the topics explored during Friendship Club include turn-taking, asking a friend to play, navigating conflicts during play, being flexible, sharing, following the rules in a game, and any other issue that may arise during play. At this age children come to school with various skill levels in terms of play and it is our job to support those developing skills so that all children feel included and form lasting friendships.

Your child may have already come home and mentioned that s/he ate lunch with Mrs. Schmid. It is our goal that all Goosehill students will be able to participate in Friendship Club at some point during the school year. The students will cycle in and out of Friendship Club and most of the groups will run for about three weeks.

As I shared with you at Back to School Night, our staff works as a team to be able to meet all of our students’ needs. While we believe in providing support to every child, there are times we may want to focus on your child’s skills in a particular area for a sustained period of time. If that is the case, we will contact you. Please know that the lines of communication go both ways. Our teachers appreciate your insights and look forward to talking with you at next month’s Parent-Teacher conferences. In the meantime, don’t hesitate to call your child’s teacher or me if you have a concern to share. Your insights will help us support your child and address potential problems quickly and efficiently.

Warm regards,

Lynn Herschlein

