



Goosehill Primary School

Weekly Notes- November 18, 2016



Dear Parents,

Thank you to the GPFA Board for organizing our Food Drive and to our teachers and parents for helping to fill the boxes with everything a family will need for Thanksgiving dinner. The boxes will be delivered this weekend to the Helping Hands Mission in Huntington Station. This activity was an important one for our students, as it prompted discussions about *gratitude and caring for others*. Through such discussions, children can become more sensitive to the needs of others and begin to develop empathy. It helps them to recognize that their parents and other people do many things for them—provide a comfortable home, prepare dinner, buy them toys, help them learn---for which they can be grateful. They can begin to learn that not everyone may be as fortunate as they are and that sharing and helping others “feels good inside.” In *Raising Happiness: 10 Simple Steps for More Joyful Kids and Happier Parents*, by Christine Carter, the author cites numerous studies that show the positive effects of helping others- people who are kind and helpful live longer, happier lives and experience less anxiety and depression.

If you would like to continue the discussion about gratitude with your child, the children's books below will prompt conversation about all there is in life to be grateful for, including nature, people, and everyday things.

An Awesome Book of Thanks by Dallas Clayton- Inspired by the idea of being thankful for all that you have, *An Awesome Book of Thanks!* is a beautifully written, fantastically illustrated walk through a world of magical unicorns, robotic dinosaurs, and all of life's simple moments, great and small. Crafted for children ages 0-1000, this timeless story is sure to be an instant classic, at home in the hands of anyone looking for the perfect reminder of just how beautiful life can be.

The Thankful Book by Todd Parr- Parr explores the idea of gratitude in this picture book: "Every day I try to think about the things I am thankful for." Those "things" include personal characteristics-"I am thankful for my hair because it makes me unique"; music- "because it makes me want to dance"; nature, and so on. Readers are sure to get a laugh out of the notion of being thankful for underwear-"because I like to wear it on my head." Parr's signature illustrations employ bold outlines and bright colors and feature an array of characters both human and animal. The theme is ripe for discussion about readers' own "I'm thankful for" ideas.



Bear Says Thanks by Karma Wilson- Wilson does it again in this new installment about Bear and his forest friends. This time Bear is bored and wants to throw a party. When he discovers that he has nothing in his cupboards with which to whip up a feast, he becomes despondent. But his trusty pals come to the rescue, all offering up something for the festivities. Bear is thankful for their generosity but still feels sad that he has nothing to make. Once again, his friends help him understand how much he is loved by telling him that his stories are the most valuable contribution to the party. The illustrations are as detailed as ever, and children will want to reach out and hug Bear because he is so fluffy and welcoming. The rhymes are pleasing to the ear and move the story along. This is a great choice when discussing gratitude, sharing, or thanks.

Splat Says Thank you by Rob Scotton-Splat the Cat's trusty mouse friend, Seymour, needs cheering up, and Splat wants to help. He's been working on something special for Seymour—not just a thank-you card but a thank-you book! His book lists all the sweet and often hilarious reasons Splat is thankful for their friendship.

Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Reading!-----Lynn Herschlein