

HAPPY KWANZAA!
Molly
Happy Hanukkah
Happy Holidays

Goosehill Primary School
 Weekly Notes-December 23, 2016



Dear Parents,

It's been a busy and exciting week for the children! At our Spirit Day Assembly yesterday, we enjoyed a performance of **The Nutcracker**, composed and directed by first grader Christopher Coco. He and his friends Anthi Tsafos, Zoey Eisenegger, Ben Neri, Molly Yulico, Mia Damast, Aeryn O'Rourke, Ava McKean, Colbie Canty, Julia Cortese, Anthony Duke, Beckett Bertsch, and Owen Zarboutis created scenery, made props and rehearsed during many recess periods to prepare for the performance. They all did a terrific job and delighted the audience! It was wonderful to see children show such initiative and commitment to a creative project.

Our Sing-along today was a lot of fun. The children sang with such exuberance! We enjoyed traditional Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa songs and the first grade children also learned Auld Lang Syne and sang it for us in celebration of the New Year. Thank you to Mrs. Kotzky for teaching the children all of the holiday songs and serving as our accompanist.

I hope you will enjoy some quiet time with your children over the upcoming break. I encourage you to include some family reading time as often as you can. Without the pressures of school schedules and homework, it is a perfect time for parents and children to settle into a good book together. It is not just the act of reading that benefits children. It is also the feeling that you create when you snuggle up with them, immerse yourselves in a story, talk about characters' traits and actions, and make connections to people and events in your own lives. Conversations about stories help children learn the power of the written word—to create images and feelings in our minds and hearts.

The teachers, staff, and I want to thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our school community. We appreciate all you do to help your children grow and develop as the special, caring young people they are.

To our families celebrating Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa next week, we wish you a joyous holiday!

We wish all our families peace, joy, and a New Year filled with health and happiness!

Warm regards,
 Lynn Herschlein



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