

March 1, 2019

Dear Parents,

A lot of exciting things are happening at Goosehill! The students are engaged in rich learning experiences every day. Kindergarten students have been exploring force and motion in science and learning basic coding and robotics in the Creative Learning Lab. They are reading simple pattern books and writing their own books to share with each other. First graders are exploring light and sound, completing an inquiry unit on the Presidency, and reading and writing procedural (How-to) books. It is wonderful to witness the joyful learning taking place in our classrooms.

Our school-wide SuperHero theme is helping us highlight important social-emotional skills in a fun and engaging way. Thank you for completing the **Family Focus Superhero HW Log** this month! (You can send it in on Monday, if you haven't already done so.) Our students are being recognized for showing **honesty, empathy, respect, and openheartedness**. Our bulletin boards are full of the "bursts" on which the students draw or write about their Superhero actions. They enjoy hearing their names and actions shared with the whole school during morning announcements. We remind them about **how good it feels inside** when they demonstrate honesty, empathy, respect, and openheartedness.

As you know, our School Improvement Team (SIT) has organized a community service project for our students: **Coins for Cats & Dogs**, which will benefit a local animal shelter. We appreciate your efforts to have your child complete chores in order to earn the coins s/he donates. It will be a much more meaningful experience for your child if s/he earns the money rather than just receive it from you.

Thanks to the GPFA, we will have an Artist-in-Residency next week. Artist **Bren Bataclan** will be here to share his art with the students and to work with our first graders to design and paint a mural in our cafeteria. Bren is known for his **Smile Boston Project**---sharing his art with people at no cost---except a promise to smile and be kind to the people you meet. Here is a link to an article about a school residency Bren did recently, which will be very similar to ours:

<https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article179860056.html>

Our first graders have shared their ideas with Bren and will work in teams on Monday afternoon to design our mural. They are so excited! It will be a wonderful experience for the children to watch Bren this week as he turns their ideas and designs into a beautiful work of art that will be enjoyed by hundreds and hundreds of children for many years to come.

Thank you again to the GPFA for their generosity and support, making this special opportunity available to our school.

Warm regards,

Lynn Herschlein