

October 19, 2018

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. Research has shown 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. Through our district’s Social Emotional Literacy (SEL) program, “*The RULER Approach*,” we teach children to **R**ecognize, **U**nderstand, **L**abel, **E**xpress, and **R**egulate their emotions. While all teachers teach RULER lessons, Mrs. Schmid (our school psychologist) and Mrs. Fuller (district social worker) teach lessons about self-regulation, mindfulness, kindness, empathy, and conflict resolution in our classrooms. Your child may refer to them as the “Friendship Teachers.”

Additionally, our special education teachers, Mrs. Wolf and Ms. Shalley will be doing lessons in all classrooms focused on respecting the differences among people. It is important to talk to children about differences—in language, appearance, ability, religion, culture---so that they understand that when someone is different, it isn’t a bad thing. Children are naturally curious and want to know why people are different. We teach them that every person has unique characteristics that make them special. It is essential that they learn to show respect and kindness to others who may look, sound, and act differently, or have different needs. Please encourage your child to talk about these ideas so that you can reinforce them at home.

**On another note, please remember the following:**

\* Your child needs a **warm jacket** every day, as we have outdoor recess whenever possible. Please label everything!

\* If your child will be kept home from school, please **call the attendance line to leave a voicemail: 631-367-5948.**

\* **Halloween Festivities**

- Kindergarten Parents arrive 9:20-9:25 and proceed directly to the cafeteria for the Sing Along at 9:30.
- First Grade Parents arrive 9:50-9:55 and proceed directly to the field. You can line up along the parade route that runs from the gym door around to the basketball court.
- Kindergarten will join first grade for the parade at 10:00.
- First grade will have their Sing Along after the parade.

\* I will be offering another **Parent Lunch-Recess Volunteer Training at 10:45 on Halloween** (following the 1st grade singalong)

Enjoy the weekend!

Lynn Herschlein