

November 2, 2018

Dear Parents,

Thank you for attending our Halloween Festivities! The children had a wonderful time singing for you and parading in their costumes. Thank you to the GPFA for purchasing the pumpkins for the children and all of the parents who helped decorate them and who organized crafts for the children. Thank you to Mrs. Beja for all of her hard work and enthusiasm. The children's performance was absolutely fantastic!

Parent-teacher conferences begin on Thursday. It is a full day of school for students. The students will have a substitute teacher for half the day while the teacher conducts some of her conferences.

We will have half days of school for parent-teacher conferences on Friday, November 9th and Friday, November 16th. The children will be dismissed at noon.

Please consider the following ideas to help you make the most of the upcoming conference with your child's teacher:

- Think about **what you would like the teacher to know about your child**. What are his/her interests? What does s/he love about school? How are homework routines going? What impresses you the most about your child's learning? What concerns do you have?
- Think about **what you would like to know about how your child performs in school**. Is s/he excited about learning? Does s/he tend to try to avoid any type of activity? How are his/her skills developing? How are his/her work habits developing? How does s/he interact socially?
- **All learners develop at different rates and in different ways**. Your child's teacher will help you know the areas in which your child is performing comfortably and the areas in which s/he needs some support at this time. Please remember that if your child needs support in an area, it is okay. The teacher will let you know what she is doing to address your child's needs and what you can do to support your child at home. We may offer AIS (Academic Intervention Services) for a period of 4-8 weeks to give your child a "boost."
- Your child's performance in *all* areas, including **art, music, library, and physical education**, is important. If you would like to schedule an appointment with Mrs. McLaughlin (art), Mrs. Beja (music), Ms. Urso (library) or Mr. Malone (physical education), please visit their websites and sign up on Sign-Up Genius.
- The best way to support your child's growth and confidence as a learner is to **celebrate and encourage effort and perseverance**. Let your child know how proud you are of how hard s/he works in school to be the very best student s/he can be.

Here are some additional school updates and reminders:

- **Election Day is a full day of school.** Please try to take your child to the voting booth with you that afternoon or evening. It is a terrific citizenship lesson for them! (The children will be voting on an important issue in school that day as well!)
- **The next GPFA meeting is on Wednesday, November 7th at 9:30.** Suffolk County Police Officer Andrew Fiorillo will be joining me for a discussion on school safety. We will also be conducting our second lockdown drill that day. I hope you'll join us for this important meeting.
- **Friday, November 9th is a half day of school.** Send your child to school with a snack. Lunch will not be served in school. Please remember we cannot accept bus stop changes on half days of school. Please try to keep your dismissal plan consistent. Thank you for your cooperation. (November 16th is also a half day of school.)

To our families celebrating Diwali next week, we wish you a joyous celebration!

Have a great weekend! Hope to see you at Parents' Night Out on Monday evening!

Lynn Herschlein