

December 7, 2018

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all who attended the GPFA meeting on Wednesday. At that meeting, I reviewed many of the goals we have for our students and explained the Goosehill report card. I will share some of our discussion points here:

- The report card is designed to communicate how your child's skills are developing relative to grade level expectations. Because young children develop skills unevenly, please view the report card as a *snapshot*—a moment in time---designed to give you a general sense of your child's current performance in school. Your child's performance can change quickly---sometimes you will see great bursts of growth and at other times periods when it stays the same, or even falters a bit. Ultimately, you will see positive growth over time.

We use the numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 to indicate how your child is performing *at this time* and how much teacher support s/he needs in order to apply his/her developing skills in each area of learning

1 means your child is having difficulty in an area of learning and requires consistent teacher support. The skill may be developing very slowly and we will have developed a plan to provide extra support on a regular basis.

2 means your child is learning and growing with teacher support. Most students are performing at this level in some categories. We teach all students to persevere in their learning and not to be discouraged if something is challenging for them. Rather than saying, "*I can't do this,*" we want them to say, "*I can't do this yet.*" Therefore, a level 2 simply means "*not yet*" and this is an area that the teacher is working on with your child. You can provide support at home in a variety of ways. I will be doing workshops for parents on this topic after the holidays.

3 means that your child can apply the skills readily and teacher support may be minimal or just needed for short periods of time.

4 means your child may have learned a skill quickly and is able to demonstrate independence in its application.

- Social-emotional and self-regulation skills are extremely important and contribute to students' success now and in the future. The primary school years are critical in that they set the foundation for lifelong attitudes and habits. If a child learns to manage distractions, control his/her emotions, and delay gratification s/he will be more "available" for learning. If a child loves listening to stories, playing with numbers, and experimenting with materials and ideas now, s/he is poised for enjoyment and academic success in the future.

We encourage you to foster a love of learning and a *growth mindset* in your child---helping him/her understand that **effort results in success**. Help us show our students that it is okay if something is challenging for them- all learners face challenges and make mistakes. It is okay to be unsure or uncomfortable, and there are ways to handle those feelings. They can ask for help, keep trying, take small steps forward. Tell them you are proud of how they stick with something, try again, or how much effort they put into a task. These are the messages that foster a growth mindset.

- **The Reading Stage** indicated on the report card is designed to give you a sense of the skills your child is working on as a reader. Take a look at the stage your child is in and note the skills s/he is developing. Look to the next stage to see what the next set of goals will be for your child. Make sure your child finds reading pleasurable. Offer him/her books that are easy to read----lots of high-success reading is what makes kids love reading and get better at it! Most importantly read aloud to your child every day. It builds comprehension, vocabulary, knowledge of the world, and a love of reading.

Please remember that the goal is for all children to develop confidence and competence so that learning is **enjoyable** and **rewarding**. When it is, they will seek new ideas, take risks, collaborate with others, and persevere when faced with a challenge---all essential ingredients for success!

Report Cards can be accessed next Friday afternoon on the Parent Portal (after 5:00 p.m.)  
If you have questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Warm regards,  
Lynn Herschlein