

December 21, 2018

Dear Parents,

It's been a busy and exciting week for the children! They certainly enjoyed the festivities and winter crafts in their classrooms this week. Thank you for your involvement and support during this busy holiday season.

Yesterday the children had an opportunity to play a game with children from different classes at our **Goosehill Game Day**. Every staff member led a game with four children who were randomly assigned to play together. We played games such as Trouble, Candyland, Uno, Chutes and Ladders, Memory, Quick Cups, Yeti in My Spaghetti, and Pop the Pig. We emphasized good sportsmanship, turn-taking, and encouraging each other. What fun we had! We hope your family enjoys playing board games together. It is really an important experience for young children.

Our **Sing-along** today was a lot of fun. The children sang with such exuberance! We enjoyed traditional Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa songs and celebrated the commonalities among all of the holidays. Thank you to Mrs. Beja for teaching the children the songs. *Please see the section below "**Growing SEL Learners at Goosehill**" for more information about the ways we teach our students to respect and appreciate diversity.

I hope you will enjoy some quiet time with your children over the upcoming break. I encourage you to engage in 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 the GPFA and all of our parents for the lovely Sweet Treats and generous gifts. We greatly appreciate all you do to support us as we work together to help your children grow and develop as the special, caring young people they are.

To all of our families celebrating Christmas, we wish you a joyous holiday!

We wish everyone peace, joy, and a New Year filled with health and happiness!

Warmly,
Lynn Herschlein