

Goosehill Primary School Weekly Notes- February 28, 2020

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Dear Parents,

Next week is *Read Across America* week which coincides with the birthday of Theodore Geisel (Dr. Seuss) on Monday. We will be celebrating books and reading in a variety of ways at Goosehill next week! Teachers will read special books to their classes (including during music, art, and PE) and classes will have guest readers. On Thursday, our Spirit Day will be a little different----we ask that everyone **wear something with words on it!** We will spend the day reading each other's clothing! Additionally, the entire staff will ***drop everything and read*** for 20 minutes on Thursday morning. Our school nurse, office and teacher assistants, custodial and kitchen staff, teachers, teacher aides----*everyone*---will join the children in an uninterrupted period of quiet, joyful reading! **Please send your child to school on Thursday wearing something with words on it and a really good book!**

Next Friday, is a **National Day of Unplugging**- a day when people across America will take a 24-hour respite from technology. The sponsoring organization (Reboot) promotes the value of disconnecting from devices *"to connect with ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities in real time."* You will receive information and a family certificate to return to school the following Monday, March 9th. All schools will be asking families to engage their children in this important experience. We hope it will help us all reflect on our use of screens for entertainment and give us ideas that will help us achieve balance. The goal is to promote play, creativity, reading, face-to-face interactions with loved ones and friends, and hands-on exploration in our children's lives.

Here are just a few ideas to consider:

- Current research finds that screen use can have an adverse effect on children's cognitive and language development.
- It is critical that parents limit and monitor screen time and ensure that media use does not interfere with sleep and physical activity
- Children "require face-to-face interaction" to build language and social skills. They also need face to face interaction to develop *empathy*, the ability to understand emotion, as well as the ability to navigate personal situations.
- Studies also demonstrate that screen time replaces creative, unstructured time, reading, socializing, and outdoor play.

We hope that you find time next weekend to play a board game, take a bike ride or hike outdoors, give your child cardboard and other materials with which to build a castle (or anything else!) and cuddle up with your child and read a good book! If you would like to begin to engage your children in listening to stories and books, many parents are enjoying podcasts for children in the car. Here is a link to a few suggested podcasts for different ages:

<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/the-best-podcasts-for-kids>

Please know that we understand the challenges parents face when trying to find the appropriate place for technology in their children's lives. We are inviting you to engage in more reading and less technology

next week simply so that you can gain insight into your own children's needs and help you make decisions that can positively impact their academic and social-emotional growth and development.

Next Wednesday, I will be presenting on the topic of Social-Emotional Learning at our GPFA meeting (9:30-10:30). I look forward to seeing you there.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Warm regards,

Lynn Herschlein

Health Reminders

We continue to remind students to **maintain personal space to help prevent the spread of colds and flu, as well as the spread of head lice**. Please reinforce the idea that students should cough and sneeze into their elbows and wash their hands frequently. Please also continue to teach your children to wash hands for the length of time it takes them to sing Happy Birthday twice! To help reduce the spread of lice, please reinforce the importance of avoiding head-to-head. **Cases of lice tend to increase after a holiday break.* **Please check your child's scalp regularly.**

Important Dates

March 4- GPFA Meeting 9:30 Mrs. Herschlein will present on the topic of Social-Emotional Learning

March 5- Goosehill Read-In. Wear a Shirt with Words!

March 6- National Unplug Day

March 12- Report Cards posted on the Parent Portal

March 13- Half Day of School (Parent-Teacher Conferences)

March 17- First Grade Field Trip to the Fish Hatchery

March 19- Kindergarten SuperHero Dance 6-7 p.m. **(See Flyer)** [Goosehill Kindergarten SuperHERO Dance Flyer 2020.pdf](#)

March 20- Half Day of School (Parent-Teacher Conferences)

March 23 - First Grade Classes (Katz, Riggles, Villa) visit the CSH Labs for a Science Fair (Parents invited)

March 24 - First Grade Classes (DeRop, GC) visit the CSH Labs for a Science Fair (Parents invited)

March 26- First Grade Family Fun Night 6-7 p.m.

March 27- Half Day of School (Parent-Teacher Conferences)

[Flyer Packet 2-28-20.pdf](#)