



Goosehill Primary School Weekly Notes-January 15, 2016



Dear Parents,

As you know, we are making a concerted effort to teach our students about diversity. We are noticing they are very interested in the topic. Our students are thinking and talking about the differences they observe among their peers and in the world. At our Spirit Day Assembly on Wednesday, we viewed a Sesame Street video, *"Count Me In"* and discussed accepting and respecting differences. Students from Mrs. Riggles' class, *Kelsey, Sophia, Jasmine, Chloe, Luke, and Matthew*, performed a terrific skit they'd written in library club about diversity. We also made connections to the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As we honor his birthday on Monday, I hope your children will share with you what they have learned in school about his life and mission.

As adults, we may be tempted to model being "difference blind" and avoid talking with our children about how people are different. However, research suggests that it is important to talk directly with them about diversity. Here are some ideas, courtesy of TeachingTolerance.org:

Acknowledge difference. Rather than teaching children that we are all the same, acknowledge the many ways people are different, and emphasize some of the positive aspects of our differences — language diversity and various music and cooking styles, for example. Likewise, be honest about instances, historical and current, when people have been mistreated because of their differences. Encourage your child to talk about what makes him or her different, and discuss ways that may have helped or hurt. After that, finding similarities becomes even more powerful, creating a sense of common ground.

Challenge intolerance. If your child says or does something indicating bias or prejudice, don't meet the action with silence. Silence indicates acceptance, and a simple command — "Don't say that" — is not enough. First try to find the root of the action or comment: "What made you say that about Sam?" Then, explain why the action or comment was unacceptable.

Emphasize the positive. Just as you should challenge your child's actions if they indicate bias or prejudice, it's important to praise him for behavior that shows respect and empathy for others. Catch your child treating people kindly, let him or her know you noticed, and discuss why it's a desirable behavior.

Embrace curiosity. Be careful not to ignore or discourage your youngster's questions about differences among people, even if the questions make you uncomfortable. Not being open to such questions sends the message that difference is negative.

Foster pride. Talk to your child about your family heritage to encourage self-knowledge and a positive self-concept.

Connecting with our focus on diversity, our Social Emotional Feeling Word for this month is **respect**. The teachers will be reading books to the children that exemplify *respect* in a variety of contexts and engaging them in discussions about the tenets of our School Charters which say: *"We all want to feel safe, happy, and included,"* and *"We will use nice words and invite people to play."* I know you will have important conversations with your child when you complete the Feeling Words homework this month.

Enjoy the long weekend!

Warm regards,

Lynn Herschlein

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(notices you can access at our website and read/print from home)

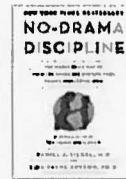
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Thank you

Thank you to our teachers for planning and conducting an engaging math workshop for parents this week! Experiences such as this one help to strengthen the home-school connection.

Parent Book Club

Mrs. Herschlein will be facilitating a Book Club next month. The title of the book is **No-Drama Discipline: The Whole-Brain Way to Calm the Chaos and Nurture Your Child's Developing Mind** by Daniel Siegel, M.D. and Tina Payne Bryson, PH.D. Twelve parents signed up at the GPFA meeting on Wednesday. If you are interested in participating, please email Mrs. Herschlein and indicate whether you would like us to reserve a copy for you from the CSH Library or you will secure the book on your own. The goal is to meet during the last week of February and the first week of March. (9:30-10:30- Tuesday or Wednesday) Dates will be confirmed in a few weeks once the books have been secured and distributed.



Kindergarten Registration If your preschool child will be 5 years old on or before December 1, 2016, s/he is eligible for kindergarten in September 2016. Please contact the District Registrar, Gloria Albert (631-367-5910) to ensure that your child's name appears on the District census. Only those families whose child's name appears on the census will receive registration information from the Superintendent in January. Registration begins next month.

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 18th- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day- No school for students

January 21st- CSH Educational Foundation Event 11:30am-1pm at CSH Library

January 27th- FOCUS workshop: Conquering School Anxiety, 9 a.m. Goosehill Primary School

January 28th- Kindergarten Family Fun Night- 6:15 p.m.

February 4th- First Grade Family Fun Night- 6:15 p.m.

GPFA UPDATES

The GPFA would like to thank all those who attended the meeting this past week. **Special thanks to our wonderful teachers for conducting such a helpful math workshop for parents.** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10th at 9:30am. Hope to see you there!

Looking for something to do with the kids over the long weekend? **Clip some Box Tops!** The GPFA is running a Box Top competition during the month of January - the top-collecting kindergarten and first grade class will win an extra recess. To participate, simply clip Box Tops at home and send them to school with your child in a baggie marked with your child's teacher's name. Stay tuned for an update on what classes are in the lead!

The Cold Spring Harbor Educational Foundation invites you to a screening of the documentary "Fed Up" on Thursday, **January 21st** from 11:30-1:00 at the CSH Public Library. The first of a three-part, community-building workshop series "Body, Mind and Social Media," the screening will be followed up by a Q&A with the film's Executive Producers and lunch from Organic Krush. Please RSVP at www.cshedfoundation.com. Seating is limited.

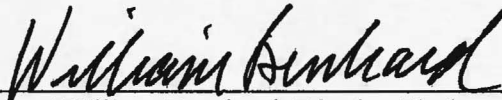
FOCUS will be holding a workshop this month on Wednesday, **January 27th** at **9am** in the Goosehill Community Room. **Conquering School Anxiety ~ Tips for Parents and Students!** Special guest speaker, Meredyth D. Kravitz, Psy.D. will present us with applicable strategies that will help us help our children. Let's learn how to relax and stay calm so we can offer them support in being better-prepared and more successful as test takers.

Mark your calendars for our upcoming family fun nights! Kindergarten Family Fun night will be held Thursday, January 28th at 6:15pm and First Grade Family Fun Night will be Thursday, February 4th at 6:15pm. Siblings are welcome to attend. \$10 per family.

COLD SPRING HARBOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
75 Goose Hill Road, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724

**** PLEASE POST ****

Please be advised that a meeting of the Cold Spring Harbor Capital Projects Committee will take place on January 20, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. at The Francis Roberts Community Center.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William Bernhard", is written over a horizontal line.

William Bernhard, District Clerk

For Kids & Teens! *Programs from Cold Spring Harbor Library's Youth Services Department. Registration Required!*



Meet the Editor
Tuesday, January 19th, 7pm
For kids in grades 5-12
 Are you an aspiring writer?
 Meet BuzzFeed editor Arianna Rebolini and learn about freelance writing and what it's like to work at the popular web site. Registration is requested.

Mixed Media Snow Paintings

Monday, January 18th 2pm

For children in grades K-6

Create a masterpiece using watercolors and salt 'snow.'



For more information about any Kids Programs or Teen Programs, contact a Youth Services Librarian at the Cold Spring Harbor Library - 631-692-6820

Programs and Services from the Information Services Department



Basic iPad & iPhone Settings
Wednesday, January 20 at 2pm

Our instructor will give you an overview of iPhones and iPads, and a detailed look at how you can activate and change your device's settings. Q&A follows. This program is free and open to all. Advance registration is requested.

For more information about any Adult Program, contact Information Services at the Cold Spring Harbor Library at 631-692-6820.