



Goosehill Primary School

Weekly Notes- May 12, 2017



Dear Parents,

With just six weeks remaining in the school year, we have begun the process of preparing our students for the transition to the next school year. The ability to deal with change is an important skill for children to develop-whether it's the end of the school year or the move to a new home, change can bring feelings of sadness and uncertainty as well as anticipation and excitement. Our goal is to provide opportunities that will help our students understand the upcoming changes and feel comfortable asking questions and sharing any concerns they may have. While we address the changes, we keep things simple. Children don't need to be overly concerned about the future! We simply want them to feel confident that no matter which school they attend or classroom they are assigned, they will be safe, comfortable, and happy.

While our current kindergarten students will have the simplest transition next year, we want them to get to know a little about first grade before they leave for the summer. Each kindergarten class will make a weekly visit to a first grade class for "Buddy Reading." The first graders will give their kindergarten "buddies" a tour of their classroom and then they will spend time reading their favorite books and/or their own writing to each other. The teachers and I believe this experience helps build excitement while easing the transition to first grade for our kindergarten students. The children enjoyed their first Buddy Reading session today!

Our first graders will visit West Side and Lloyd Harbor Schools next month for the very same reasons. They will ride a "big bus" to their new schools where they will have a tour and spend time in the second grade classrooms. Our first grade teachers help the children feel comfortable about moving on to second grade. They answer their questions about each of the schools and assure them that they are ready to "move up." The teachers acknowledge that the children may be sad that some of their friends will be attending a different school and reassure them that they will continue to have good friends in their new schools. Parents often help their children maintain "across town" friendships through play dates and of course, all of the children will be together again in seventh grade. Parents of current first graders will receive an invitation to attend an Orientation Meeting at Lloyd Harbor and West Side School on June 15th at 9:30 a.m.

While we think about the future, we are still very busy and focused on the present! The children are learning new things every day and using the skills they have developed this year in exciting ways. We look forward to celebrating their successes with you at upcoming events, such as classroom literacy celebrations. **Field Day** and **Moving Up Ceremony** dates and times are listed on the reverse side of this page in the **Dates to Remember** section. Detailed information about all of our events will be shared with you in the coming weeks.

Thank you to Mrs. Light, our Cultural Arts representative, for arranging to have author/illustrator, Lori Richmond visit our school yesterday. The children enjoyed hearing about how characters are created and books are made. Ms. Richmond led them through a process of creating their own character and setting, and encouraged them to keep imagining, drawing, and writing their own stories. We love for our students to have the opportunity to meet published authors. It's yet another way to build excitement about books and reading!

Have a wonderful weekend! Happy Mother's Day!
Mrs. Herschlein



Wishing you the very best this Mother's Day!

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