



Goosehill Primary School

Weekly Notes- December 12, 2014



Dear Parents,

At the GPFA meeting on Wednesday, I reviewed the report card categories and our approach to supporting our students' growth. Some important ideas were discussed and I would like to share some of them with you here.

The first report card for the 2014-15 school year will be available today on the Parent Portal after 5:00 p.m. (If you haven't yet registered on the portal, please see the instructions on the reverse side of these notes.)

Purpose: The Goosehill report card is designed to communicate your child's achievement in relation to the New York State Common Core Learning Standards. Our students are developing essential skills, learning complex ideas, and developing strategies that will help them achieve at high levels throughout their educational experience. They are working hard every day! Please remember that while a report card provides you with insight into your child's progress *at a moment in time*, it does not define him or her as a student. It is *one* part of our important home-school connection. We are working together to help all of our students 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!

Performance Levels: Performance levels range from 1-4 and indicate where your child is performing in relation to *benchmarks* we've set for each marking period. If your child is **meeting expectations** (performance level 3), it means that s/he has learned the foundational concepts and skills expected at this point in the school year and can apply them with some level of independence. It is important to note that grade level expectations are quite high, so **a performance level of 3 is a commendable achievement!** Occasionally, a child demonstrates a strong ability to perform in a particular area and applies a skill consistently and independently. His/her performance may actually exceed expectations at points during the school year (level 4).

If your child **needs support to meet grade level expectations** (performance level 2), it means that while s/he is learning and demonstrating many of the skills s/he needs, s/he is not quite able to consistently apply them on his/her own yet. **Most children perform at level 2 in a few areas**, and their teachers target instruction to address those skills in the classroom. A child performing at level 2 *may* or *may not* be receiving Academic Intervention Services (AIS) at this time, but his/her progress is being monitored. ***Remember, at Goosehill we recognize that learning is part of a developmental process that involves many factors including age, readiness, and experience. All children develop at different rates and at different times. We provide extra support to many, many students whenever we think they need a little "boost." This is not a cause for alarm! Rather, it is part of a very comprehensive approach to meeting children's needs.

If your child is **having difficulty meeting grade level standards** (performance level 1) s/he is receiving AIS or other kinds of support in addition to classroom instruction. Your child's teachers will have shared their plans for teaching your child the necessary skills so that s/he can make steady progress toward meeting the expectations of the grade level.

Reading Stage: The Reading Stage indicated on the report card is designed to give you information about the types of books your child is reading in school and the skills s/he is developing at this time. Children progress through reading stages in uneven ways! Some may linger in a stage and then have a burst of progress, while others start out moving quickly through stages and then deepen their skills within one stage for a few months. A list of books that correlate with the reading stages will be posted on the GH website under **Parent Information** today. Please use it as a guide to help you choose books that are comfortable for your child to read at home.

*Please remember to choose books at the stage that comes **before** your child's stage to ensure that s/he enjoys a lot of "high-success" reading at home, which helps to build fluency and comprehension.