

Dear Parents,

We are excited to share our learning during Student-Led Conferences on Thursday, May 4th, which will take place at school this year.

Student-led Conferences serve many purposes. It is an opportunity to recognize that learning is a journey and to celebrate strengths and growth over time **with** your child. It is a critical part of the learning process that empowers them to be actively engaged, to accept personal responsibility for reporting overall progress, and to dive into deeper self-reflection.

Student-Led Conferences provide another meaningful opportunity for children to develop core competencies such as effective communication with intent and purpose, critical and reflective thinking, personal awareness (as they value themselves, their ideas, and their accomplishments), and a positive personal identity as they acknowledge their strengths and abilities.

We recommend setting aside approximately 30 - 45 minutes of time for your child to share evidence of learning as they lead the conversation. The following is a list of suggested guidelines for these conferences. This will help ensure a successful experience for you and your child:

- Make this a time when your child has your undivided attention. It is preferable to keep young non-school aged children at home.
- Sit on the same side of the table as your child.
- Encourage your child to direct and lead the conference.
- Focus on strengths and growth over time. Be positive. Learning is a journey!
- Look for the development of your child's thinking and ideas.
- Use active listening: eye contact, positive body language, listen attentively, paraphrase, offer encouraging comments.
- Ask open-ended questions, such as:
 - Tell me more about your work.
 - What strengths did you notice as you did this work?
 - What are you most proud of?
 - What challenges did you have to overcome?
 - What did you learn about yourself?
 - Tell me something new you learned as you worked on this.
- Enjoy your special time together! Have fun! 😊

Please note that all students will be dismissed from school at 1:45 pm on Thursday, May 4. Please make arrangements to ensure that your child will be picked up promptly after school.

We are so grateful for your time and dedication to celebrating your child's growth. Thank you for being partners in your child's education. We appreciate you! ❤️

Gratefully,

Ms. Chan and Mrs. Paulich
