



The Eagles Nest News

May 16, 2018

Hello Parents/Guardians.

This installment of Eagles Nest News will focus on Student led conferences. Time is flying and we are closing in on our scheduled student led conferences on June 5th and 6th. I will explain what student led conferences entail as well we have attached an interesting article to read on why have these conferences.

The traditional parent-teacher conference provides parents/guardians with an update on their child's progress and opportunities to see their student's work. However, students are often absent and if they are present usually sit passively as their education is discussed. One way to fix this is to put students as the host, as they are ultimately the ones who are responsible for their work and progress. Thus, the student-led conference.

In the student-led conference, students and teachers prepare together, and then students lead the conference. The teachers will be present in the room and may be a part of a dialogue but ultimately this is the student's moment to share their reflections on both achievements and challenges.

These conferences are different than the traditional parent teacher meeting. With the student at the lead it helps them gain a better understanding of their strengths and challenges. As well they can better see the connection between their effort, progress, and resulting quality of work. With the student leading the discussion parents can also become more reflective about their children's progress and hopefully understand how to help at home as well.

During student-led conferences, parents focus the conversation on their children and reflect on their work with them. They look at samples and listen to their children's explanations and reflections. Then, they ask how they can help and what the students need from them. This way they can participate in developing ways to support their students which hopefully will be in place long after the conferences end. This also helps parents to be open-minded about their children's areas of improvement and to support their goal-setting process. For parents, it's important to embrace the student-led conference format and allow children to take the reins so they can act as responsible learners.

Because student-led conferences are reflective by nature, students are asked to be honest with themselves and their parents when reflecting on their grades, effort, and study habits. They also should set appropriate goals for themselves.

In Short Student-led conferences ultimately help students communicate their learning and processes to their parents thus taking ownership of their own education.

The other facet of this newsletter is to give an update on important events and dates at our school. Please take the time to look at our upcoming important dates.

Brent Cook
VP @ Edgewood Elementary School
(250)265-3638 Ext 3310
Brent.cook@sd10.bc.ca