

The Buzz of P993 Queens

Going and Growing Strong

Volume 24 – NOVEMBER 2010 (SUPPLEMENT)

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE



Improving Parent Attendance at Parent-Teacher conferences

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is that time again. The time for you to visit and participate in the parent-teacher conference at your child's school. The conference is only a few days away. Therefore, it is important that you make the best of this opportunity for your child. In order to best prepare for the conference we've put together this newsletter with vital information, which we think would be useful in your preparation. The meetings are scheduled to be held between October 28 and November 16, depending on the school site and consist of both AFTERNOON AND EVENING sessions, in order to best facilitate your availability. By now you would have responded to the notice that was sent to you a few weeks ago. If you haven't, please do so as soon as possible. If you have any questions before the conference please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Neville Waldron
Parent Coordinator

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE AT THIS SCHOOL IS ON

_____ October _____

Time: _____ & _____ and

_____ November _____

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN

Parents and families are children's first and most important teachers. They work hard to get children ready to start school, but the work at home does not end when school begins. We know you juggle many responsibilities. Try to make as much time as possible to support your child's learning at home. It's also important to work together with teachers and school staff to help your child do his or her best throughout the school year.

Use Parent-teacher Conferences

An important way for you to form a strong partnership with your child's teacher is to attend the Parent-Teachers Conference. This is your chance to find out how your child is doing, discuss your own concerns, and find out what you can do to help your child do better.

Translation and Interpretation Services

The DOE Translation and Interpretation Unit offers over-the-phone interpretation services in over 150 languages to all schools during regular business hours, and during all scheduled evening Parent-Teacher Conferences

What Parents Can Do At Home To Help Children Succeed In School

- ❑ Model positive behavior and practices.
- ❑ Create a home environment that encourages learning and schoolwork. Establish a daily homework routine
- ❑ Show your child that the skills earned in school are important things by letting your child see you read, use math, and do things requiring thought and effort.
- ❑ Provide lots of reading materials in the home that is appropriate for your child.
- ❑ Encourage your child to use the library.
- ❑ Limit TV viewing to no more than one or two hours or less, on a school light.
- ❑ Help your child learn to use the Internet properly and effectively.
- ❑ Encourage your child to be responsible and work independently.
- ❑ Show interest in what your child does in school.
- ❑ Offer praise and encouragement for achievement and improvement.
- ❑ Speak to your child's teacher for some suggestions and guidance.
- ❑ Link gifts or other material items as reinforcements to your child's success.

Helpful tips for parents visiting school

DO

- ❑ Be on Time and expect the same from the teacher

- ❑ Go in with a positive attitude
- ❑ Your child's teacher is a professional who sees the value of a partnership with you. So it's important to begin with a relaxed, upbeat comment (about the room decorations, the school, or the child)
- ❑ Bring examples of the projects your child had done at home or activities you do together.

DON'T

- ❑ Go with preconceived impressions of the teacher, no matter what you've heard from other parents. Wait until you meet the teacher before forming your opinion.
- ❑ Panic about the short amount of time: if you are prepared, you will accomplish a lot.
- ❑ Wait for a conference if you have concerns or a question-call or contact the teacher, parent coordinator or other administrators as soon as possible.
- ❑ Let a personal or negative experience you might have had in school prevent you from making a connection with your child's teacher.
- ❑ Be intimidated by an educator because you aren't one.
- ❑ Allow anyone to make you question your overall understanding of your child.

Tips for Parent-Teacher communication

Research has shown children who succeed consistently in school have parents and family members who are active and engaged. Nothing is more vital to your child's success than creating an open, ongoing relationship with the teacher. Try these simple suggestions:

- ❑ Take time to really talk to the teacher about his or her world. Go beyond, "How did Joan/Jane did today?" Listen attentively to what she or he shares.

- Ask for communication all year, but respect the teacher's boundaries. Most teachers are too busy to have a conversation at drop-off or pick-up, so ask about what time of day work best. Also find the ways that work easily for both you and the teacher. These include, but are not limited to: phone calls and written notes.
- Above all, trust your instinct. Your knowledge of your child is valuable and an experienced teacher will look to you as the best expert on your child. As children progress, you discussions with the teacher become increasingly important. Keep up the dialogue.

Extracted from "Scholastic Parent & Child" October 2002

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO PREPARE FOR THE CONFERENCE

- Talk to your child about how things are going in school.
- Ask your child if he or she would like specific thoughts or concerns communicated to the teacher.
- If you are concerned about your child's work, keep copies of materials that illustrate your concerns and bring them to the meeting.
- Think about what you can tell teachers that will help them understand your child better, i.e. favorite subjects, special interests or concerns.
- Write down your own questions to each teacher/staff.

PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS TO USE WITH TEACHERS

What are my child's strength's and weaknesses? How can we address any weakness together?
 Does my child participate in class?
 How does my child get along with the other

children in class?
 What determines the grade my child gets in this class?
 Do you have all of his/her homework assignments? How much time should be spent on homework? Is it assigned daily? Will you keep me informed if he/she is falling behind?
 What is the best way to communicate with you after this meeting?
 How do I communicate with my child's related services providers?
 What others support my child might need to help him or her succeed?

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO DURING THE CONFERENCE

Focus on one issue or problem at a time.
 Ask for suggestions.
 Make observations.
 Ask for the teacher's observations and for specific examples.
 Ask for specific examples to resolve or assist with your child's difficulties/behavior at home.
 Be prepared to collaborate and work with school staff. Generally, teachers inform or update parents because they want to assist the child in improving outcomes.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO AFTER THE CONFERENCE

Discuss the conference with you child.
 Share the positive information first.
 Be specific when describing areas where your child is successful.
 If there is a problem, make sure it is clearly described.
 Plan together for the areas that need improvement.