



May 13, 2010

Dear Parents:

Re: Grade 5 Student-Led Conferences – May 26, 2010 (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.)

Grade 5 Student-Led Conferences will be held on Wednesday, May 26 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. These conferences are a very important part of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP). As parents, you are an essential part of this process, and we are inviting you to participate with your child in the Student-Led Conferences. Attached is a schedule identifying thirty-minute time slots. Please sign up for your preferred timeslot(s) by Thursday, May 20, either by submitting the attached sign up sheet or email Mrs. Hay at shay@elmwood.ca.

Special student activities are planned for Grade 5 during the afternoon of the conference day. Students will leave their activity to attend their conference at the scheduled time. Parents are free to take their children home at the end of their conference, or to send them back to their activity for the rest of the school day. **The 3:26 Club will run as usual.**

During this conference, your child will share work from their portfolios with you. The student portfolios are one of the tools we use for assessment in our Junior School. Selected pieces of work have been collected since September 2009, and reflect the students' progress to date. Your child will also share some goal-setting information with you that will identify learning goals for the remainder of the school year. We will schedule up to four families to be in the classroom at any one time during the thirty-minute time slot. Ms. Holmes will be present and participating, but it will not be a time to have a conversation with her that does not include the child. After the conference, if you still wish to meet with Ms. Holmes, she would be happy to schedule a separate meeting time for another day.

Why are we doing this? There are several reasons. First, we believe that the students know about their learning better than anyone else and student-led conferencing is an important opportunity for the girls to self-evaluate, reflect upon, and monitor their own learning. Secondly, we feel it is valuable for you to have time to sit with your child, reviewing the work on which they have reflected in their portfolio. Thirdly, research suggests that this format of communication assists the children in taking responsibility for their own work. It really becomes a celebration of learning.

We look forward to your attendance, and appreciate you completing the feedback form after the conference is finished. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Kate Angell
Deputy Head