



April 12, 2011

Dear Middle and Senior School Parents,

We are pleased to announce that our annual student-led conferences will be held on **Wednesday, May 4, between 2-6 p.m for Grades 6, 7 and 8 and between 4-6 p.m. for Grades 9-12.** Each conference lasts from about 30-45 minutes, and will take place in your daughter's Homeroom/SLG classroom. For those of you who are new to this procedure, the student-led conference process empowers your daughter to direct and report on her progress at school. It is a research-based practice used in many exemplary schools, and is considered to be a vital component of learning in an International Baccalaureate school. Teachers have coached, critiqued, and evaluated your daughter's work in preparation for her meeting with you. In short, she will be running the show.

The student-led conference process is different from the traditional parent teacher conference in which the teacher does most of the talking and the parent does the listening. Often in such conferences, the student is not even present. The role of the teacher in a student-led conference is one of coach, mentor, and advocate. A teacher will be present in the room to assist your daughter should she need it.

During the conference, your daughter will report on her academic progress, articulate goals and share assessment feedback using examples of her course work. She will present samples of schoolwork from each of her classes. It is important to understand that this conference is not about the work, but the ability to articulate what she has learned, what strategies she needs to use to improve and to set goals. In short, the emphasis is on the **process** of learning, rather than on the product.

We are pleased to have this opportunity to share the learning that is happening at Elmwood and know that your daughter is eager to present her progress to you. We thank you for working with your daughter on this journey.

If you would like to attend this year's student-led conference with your daughter, please return the slip below by **Tuesday, April 26** to your daughter's Homeroom or SLG teacher, who will confirm your choice of time by email.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Boughton
Headmistress

Student-Led Conferences: Please check off your preference below and return by Tuesday, April 26, 2011

Student's Name: _____ Homeroom/SLG: _____

- I will attend the student-led conference on **Wednesday, May 4**
- Someone other than myself will be attending – grandparent or another relative

Grade 6, 7 or 8 – Preferred timeslot: 2-3 pm 3-4 pm 4-5 pm 5-6 pm
Grade 9-12 – Preferred timeslot: 4-5 pm 5-6 pm

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____