

Aux Sable Elementary School

“Thursday News”

November 15, 2007

Making Parent–Teacher Conferences Work for Your Child

A parent–teacher conference is a time when important people in a student's life can talk about how that student is doing in school. It's a chance for you to ask questions about the class or your child's progress. It is also a time for you and the teacher to work together as a team to discuss ways you both can help your son or daughter.

Teachers need your help to do a first-class job. Together, you can help your child have a great school year.

Before the Conference

Find out which subjects your child likes the best and the least. Ask why. Also, ask if there is anything your child would like you to talk about with the teacher. Help the child understand that you and the teacher are meeting to help him or her. If your child is in middle or high school, you may want to include him or her in the conference.

Before you go to the meeting, make a list of topics to discuss with the teacher. Along with questions about academics and behavior, you may want to talk to the teacher about the child's home life, personality, concerns, habits and hobbies, and other topics that may help the teacher in working with the child.

During the Conference

As an icebreaker, take notice of something that reflects well upon the teacher. For example, thank the teacher for having made thoughtful notes on your child's homework or for the special attention in helping your child learn to multiply.

Questions you ask during the conference can help you express your hopes for the student's success in class and for the teacher. It's a good idea to ask the important questions first, in case time runs out. The teacher's answers should help you both work together to help your child.

If the student needs help with a behavioral or an academic issue, you and the teacher should agree on specific plans—that you both will work on—to help your child do better. Be sure you understand what the teacher suggests. If it's not clear, ask him or her to explain. Set up a way to check on your child's progress. You and the teacher can decide how best to stay in touch, such as through phone calls, notes, or additional meetings.

End the conference by reviewing what you discussed and restating your action plan. This is also a good time to set up your next meeting.

After the Conference

When discussing the conference with the child afterward, stress the good things that were covered and be direct about problems that were identified. If an action plan is in place, explain to the child what was arranged. Watch your child's behavior and check on class work and homework. Ask how the student feels about schoolwork. Stay in touch with the teacher to discuss your child's progress. Express appreciation as progress is made. When a child knows parents and teachers are regularly working together, the child will see that education is a high priority requiring commitment and effort.

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2007 Environment Award for Children's
Literature winners

The Environment Award for Children's Literature is intended to promote books which inspire a sense of wonder and a sense of caring for the natural world.

Understanding how nature works will be essential if we are to help all life on Earth survive the impacts of global warming. Childhood is a time when most attitudes are formed. A good story can help children become receptive to a book's inherent values. The Environment Award encourages writers and illustrators who create books with environmental values.

This year's Environment Award winners share the fundamental theme of ecological interconnection – how every species' survival depends on a myriad of other species.

The winners for 2007:

Picture Book Award winner
Uno's Garden by Graeme Base (Viking)
Penguin Books

Uno's Garden is a lively and lavishly detailed picture book about environmental sustainability. A whimsical imaginary landscape demonstrates the importance of learning from past mistakes to ensure a balanced and live-able future. The added puzzles and mathematical details make it a fascinating book for all ages.

Non-Fiction Award Winner
Leaf Litter: Exploring the Mysteries of a Hidden World by Rachel Tonkin (Angus & Robertson)

Imagine sitting under a gum tree and discovering an astonishing new world of interconnection and unexpected beauty. This

outstanding book will provide readers with hours of entertainment searching for the things described, while giving a superb demonstration of the interdependence of all life.

(Source: The Wilderness Society)

Website of the Week

This Public Broadcasting website is a great website for young children.

www.pbskids.org

Upcoming Events

November 16th – Early Release
11:35 a.m. (Staff Development)
November 19th – Early Release
1:35 p.m.
November 19th – Parent/Teacher
Conferences
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
November 20th – Early Release
1:35 p.m.
November 20th – Parent/Teacher
Conferences
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
November 21st – No Student Attendance
Parent/Teacher Conferences
8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
November 22, 2007 – No School
Thanksgiving
November 23, 2007 – No School
Thanksgiving Break
November 26th – PTO Meeting
7:00 p.m.
November 27th – Referendum Meeting at
Aux Sable Elementary School (Cafeteria)
6:00 p.m.

Have a great week.
Mr. Martin

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