



*"Promise me you
will always see the
good in every child."*

Mrs. Linda Pothier

**Call now to
book your
Student-Led
Conference**

*"Westglen will
encourage life long
learning and
responsible
citizenship by pro-
viding children with
varied educational
opportunities in a
safe and caring
environment."*

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Westglen School

PAW PRINTS EXPRESS

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CONFERENCING AT WESTGLEN

Thursday, February 25 and Wednesday, March 3

Call now to book your appointment

During Student-Led Conferences, up to three families are booked per time slot. **If you have specific concerns that you would like to discuss with your child's teachers, please contact the school to arrange a private interview on an alternative date.** These can be held at any mutually convenient time or a phone interview can be arranged as well. We encourage you to contact the school as soon as a concern arises. It is not necessary to wait for scheduled conferences to discuss any concerns you may have regarding your child's education.

Student-Led Conferencing

The process of conferencing and reporting has changed from a teacher-directed, end of term event to a collaborative, ongoing process designed to support learning. Parents, students and teachers are identifying conferencing and reporting practices that effectively communicate and support student learning. These practices have the following characteristics:

- Students take a lead role
- Work samples or demonstrations are used to show proof of learning
- Students invite an audience to participate in the process
- Audiences take active roles and provide specific feedback to learners

Students Take Lead Role

Students who take a lead role in conferencing and reporting prepare by collecting samples, showing work in progress, selecting favourite pieces to talk about, and reflecting on their learning. They show, talk about, and demonstrate their learning to an invited audience. They ask their audience for information about their learning that will help them improve. They participate as active partners in the conferencing and reporting process.

Audiences are Essential to the Process

Having an audience who students know and care about gives them a purpose for collecting work samples, talking about their learning, and showing their skills. When audiences take an active role, they give specific feedback to students to support learning. If the parent or guardian is unable to attend the conference with the student, please make arrangements with the teacher to have another significant family member attend. Anyone who is interested in the student's learning and is important to the student can be an audience.

Supporting Student Learning

Research shows that when students are involved in the assessment process - learning to articulate what they have learned and what they still need work on - achievement improves (Black and William 1998; Stiggins 2001). When they are offered choices, students are motivated (Jensen 1998; Kohn 1999). In addition, learners are supported when they have an audience who shows a genuine interest in their learning and offers descriptive (nonjudgmental) feedback (Sutton 1997; Wiggins 1993). Finally, when students communicate their learning using a variety of work samples, they go beyond what grades, numbers, and scores alone can show; they are able to examine the depth, the detail, and the range of their own learning. From this information, they identify their strengths and what they need to work on next. (taken from Gregory, Kathleen; Cameron, Caren; Davies, Anne (2001) Conferencing and Reporting, Connections Publishing, Courtney BC.)

It is with these points in mind that Westglen School has been implementing student-led conferences throughout all the grades since 2007. It is expected that each student will attend with a parent, guardian or another significant adult. Please mark these dates on your calendar so that all students' learning may be supported. **Conferences will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on February 25 and March 3. Please call now to book an appointment.** We have chosen to schedule our appointment nights a week apart with hopes that this will better accommodate the schedules of our students and their families.