

April 8, 2005

Dear Elementals Families,

Students have been busy preparing their portfolios to share with you next week during their student-led conference. Based on your feedback after the fall conferences we have made a few changes for the spring conferences. Each teacher will be responsible for facilitating the conferences for a few families each time period. Students will share a portfolio with work samples and reflections from Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Students and parents will then have an opportunity to talk with the other teachers.

As indicated by Brenda A. Dyck in her article "Student-led Conferences Up Close & Personal" some of the benefits are that student-led conferences:

- Encourage students to accept personal responsibility for their academic performance
- Help students recognize and take ownership for things that interfered with their learning success
- Teach students the process of self-evaluation
- Develop students' oral communication skills and organization skills
- Increase students' self-confidence
- Enhance communication between students and parents.

On the back of this letter we have included some quotes our students wrote on their "Post Conference Student Reflections" sheet in November. We hope you enjoy them as much as we do!

Your conference is scheduled for \_\_\_\_\_ on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. We are using the same schedule from the fall conferences because many of you chose your time based on your work schedule.

Please return the bottom portion of this letter as soon as possible to Mrs. DePriest.

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Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:

- This conference time works well for us.
- We would like to reschedule for \_\_\_\_\_ on April 14<sup>th</sup> (11:30-3 or 4-6:30)

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Ruth Mount, et al