

Dear Parents,

**Parent-teacher conferences begin next Friday afternoon.** The children will be dismissed at noon.

The other Parent-Teacher Conference Days are:

**Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>- It is a full day of school.** Each teacher will have a substitute teacher working in her class for part of the day so that she can meet with parents.

**Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>- The children will be dismissed at noon.**

Please consider the following ideas to help you make the most of the upcoming conference with your child's teacher:

- Think about **what you would like the teacher to know about your child.** What are his/her interests? What does s/he love about school? How are homework routines going? What impresses you the most about your child's learning? What concerns do you have?
- Think about **what you would like to know about how your child performs in school.** Is s/he excited about learning? Does s/he tend to try to avoid any type of activity? How are his/her skills developing? How are his/her work habits developing? How does s/he interact socially?
- **All learners develop at different rates and in different ways.** Your child's teacher will help you know the areas in which your child is performing comfortably and the areas in which s/he needs some support at this time. Please remember that if your child needs support in an area, it is okay. The teacher will let you know what she is doing to address your child's needs and what you can do to support your child at home. We may offer AIS (Academic Intervention Services) for a period of 4-8 weeks to give your child a "boost."
- Your child's performance in *all* areas, including **art, music, library, and physical education**, is important. If you would like to schedule an appointment with Mrs. McLaughlin (art), Mrs. Kotzky (music), Ms. Urso (library) or Mr. Malone (physical education), please call the Main Office.
- The best way to support your child's growth and confidence as a learner is to **celebrate and encourage effort and perseverance.** Let your child know how proud you are of how hard s/he works in school to be the very best student s/he can be

**Halloween Festivities** on Tuesday 10/31:

- Kindergarten Parents arrive at 9:30 and proceed directly to the cafeteria for the Sing Along.
- First Grade Parents arrive at 10:00 and proceed directly to the field. You can line up along the parade route that is marked on the grass.
- Kindergarten will join first grade for the parade at 10:00.
- First grade will have their Sing Along after the parade.

Please remember, we don't serve food in school. Candy is not permitted in school at all. Please review the [Halloween flyer](#) for details and costume guidelines. Thank you for your cooperation.

As Halloween approaches, I thought I'd share an excerpt from an article posted on CommonSenseMedia.org. about the potential effects of frightening images on children:

**How much "scary stuff" can my young kid handle?**

*Some kids like scary stuff, and some kids hate it. Movies with fearsome images, intense danger, loud noises, and -- above all -- blood and gore can create all sorts of problems, so it's wise to take it slowly. Children younger than 7 can't easily distinguish between fantasy and reality, even if you tell*

*them it's not real. You will know if your kids have become too frightened when they start having sleep problems, irrational fears, and obsessions with, for example, zombies.*

*Disturbing images and sounds can affect vulnerable kids for years. When scary surprises crop up suddenly in a movie, check in with your kids. Because they're caught up in the emotion of fear, they may miss the fact that a scene has a safe resolution. Feel free to leave the movie theater, turn off a show, or otherwise shut down something you think is agitating. Talk about it, comfort your kid, and use it as a gauge for next time.*

***These tips can help:***

- *Choose with care. Kids over 5 may like haunted houses, mysteries, and things popping out everywhere, but stick to animation, which helps them realize it's fantasy.*
- *Be prepared for when things go bump in the night. If your kid is frightened at bedtime, give him physical comfort, a glass of water, or a distraction. Kids 2 to 7 respond well to magical remedies and nightly rituals, such as cleaning the monsters out of the closet.*
- *Watch the clock. Avoid potentially frightening stuff right before bedtime.*
- *Avoid shows and movies in which characters use violence to resolve conflict. But if it comes up, talk about alternative ways that characters could have solved a problem.---*  
*Commonsensemedia.org*

Sometimes it's not easy to know the effect something might have on a child. The best advice is probably to be cautious about what your child is exposed to—including television news, movies, computer images, and video games. Remember, at 5 or 6 years old, a child doesn't yet have the experience or ability to put frightening images into context.

Within warm, supportive relationships, children learn to manage their emotional reactions to all kinds of images and situations that may have frightening elements. The most important thing we can do for children is to let them know that the adults in their lives will keep them safe.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

We will see you Tuesday, for our "not-so-frightening" Halloween festivities!

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter! @CSHGoosehill

Warm regards,

Lynn Herschlein