

## Principal's Corner

As a parent, you know your child best. You have insights into his/her strengths, needs, and interests---information that can help his/her teacher design the most effective instructional program for him/her. As you prepare for the upcoming parent-teacher conference, think about ways you can strengthen your partnership with your child's teacher by sharing your insights, setting goals, and problem solving together.

### **Before the conference:**

- Talk with your child about his/her learning. Are there subjects or activities s/he finds especially interesting? Are there some s/he finds difficult? What makes learning hard (or easy) for him/her?
- Observe your child as s/he completes his/her homework. Does s/he need a lot of support and attention? How much time does s/he spend doing homework? Does s/he seem confident or uncertain most of the time?
- Review your child's report card grades and/or graded assignments. Has s/he made progress this marking period? Does s/he know what is expected of him/her? What goals do you have for him/her? What is s/he working hard to achieve?

### **At the conference:**

- Let the teacher know about the positive experiences your child is having. This gives the teacher insight into what "works" for your child.
- Share your observations about homework and your child's skill development. Express any concerns you may have. Listen to what the teacher has to say in response. Ask about what you can do to support the teacher's efforts. Then make a plan to talk again to review your child's progress.
- Be aware that the teacher may need to communicate some concerns about your child's behavior in school. Remember, teachers are in a unique position to observe him/her in a social setting outside of your influence. Consider the conference to be a problem-solving discussion. Work with the teacher to develop a plan to address the behavior and communicate about your child's progress.

### **After the conference:**

- Be positive with your child. Let him/her know that you are working together with his/her teacher to help him/her be the very best student s/he can be.

Communication and cooperation are the keys to a successful home-school partnership. Thank you for taking the time to attend your parent-teacher conference and for your continued support of your child's education at West Side School.

Yours,

Mrs. Herschlein