

Friday 16 June 2017 – IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR GMS FAMILIES

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES - Monday 3 July

We are now nearing the time when mid-year reporting takes place. Reports will be sent home late in Week 9 on Friday 30 June. We will also be having 'Student-Led Conferences' on Monday 3 July.

What Are Student-Led Conferences?

Student-Led Conference ('SLC's) will be as its name suggests - led by the student. Your child will celebrate what they have achieved and talk about what they are learning to do. There will be plenty of evidence of their work at the conference. It will be in a variety of places e.g. in their books, in their group's work book / modelling book or maybe on the walls as part of the class's display.

We hope that you will see your child's Student-Led Conference as a chance to learn more about their classroom and their progress.

SLCs are an opportunity for your child to talk about their work, what they can do and what they need to do to reach the next level. As your child prepares for their conference they learn to describe and reflect on their work. Describing and reflecting on our work is important as it helps us to learn.

The benefits of SLCs are seen in many ways. For example, the children are actively involved in their learning process by taking responsibility for sharing what they have learned. This involvement adds relevance and meaning to their learning. Also Student-Led Conferences give you an opportunity to participate directly in your child's learning process.

The Student-Led Conference will be held in your child's classroom. The room will be set up to accommodate quiet areas called 'stations' so your child can sit with you to share their work.

Each SLC will be 25 minutes long. As this is a chance for your child to talk, the teacher will only be available for roughly six or seven minutes should you have any questions for them. Parents wanting a longer or private session with the class teacher can make an appointment with them for later in that week.

What Role Do Parents Play in Student-Led Conferences?

We consider SLCs to be professional meetings and so we expect that parents arrive on time. *Please turn all mobile phones off before entering the room.* We will provide a child minding service for toddlers and siblings in the Library while the conference is on.

In SLCs your role will change. You become active listeners who:

- are partners with your child in their learning

- provide reinforcement, encouragement and praise for the effort your child has made
- ask questions that help your child to look realistically at the quality of their work and facilitate deeper reflection.
- assist your child to set goals that help them manage themselves

The following list of questions may be of help to ask your child during their conference. They will have prepared some notes on how to lead the SLC, although your questions will help the discussion keep flowing. Some examples of questions can be:

Show me/us your favourite piece of work and give us some reasons why you chose this piece?

Describe your favourite activities or learning areas at school (e.g. maths, reading, music, science).

What activities or learning areas are hard for you?

What do you do to help you learn new things?

What things at school do you like the most?

What things frustrate you the most?

What are the most important things you are learning this year?

What goals have you set or do you want to set for your learning for next term?

How can we help you with your learning?

How to Book a Time for a SLC?

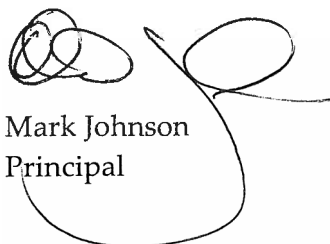
The preferred method is to use the Greenmeadows School website: and follow the link to the online booking service we use. You can find this under the 'Student-Led Conferences 2017' tab. Please use our school code: **gaf7d** to make your booking.

If you are unable to access the school's website, then you can ring or visit the school office and they will book you a time. We expect a 100% attendance of families at these SLCs, so please let us know of any difficulties you may be having booking a time.

As we value your feedback we may ask you to take time to comment at the end of the process.

Please note children **do not to have stay at school** until their conference once 12.50pm arrives on the day. We also ask that younger children are not present in the room – we can supervise them in the Library if necessary.

Please come to us with any questions you may have –remember this is something new for the whole school!



Mark Johnson
Principal