

October 2010

**Our mission is to create a learning community that prepares all students to be productive, responsible, and successful.**

## Parent/Teacher Conferences

As hard as it is to believe, it is almost Parent/Teacher conference time again. The conferences will be at the Okaw Valley Intermediate School and the Okaw Valley Middle School in Findlay on Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. We are holding the conferences earlier this year than we have in years past with the hopes that the strategies that result from the conferences will be implemented in time to still make a difference in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Additionally, we are also holding second semester Parent/Teacher Conferences in February as a way to again formally touch base about the students' progress for the year.

To prepare for the upcoming conferences, below are a few suggestions for a successful Parent/Teacher conference.

For Parents:

- 1) Ask your child if there is anything that he or she would like you to discuss with the teacher or possibly involve your child in the conference. By specifically discussing challenges or issues your child has, the conference will more likely lead to positive results.
- 2) Jot down everything you want to talk about at the conference. Often times a list helps to ensure that you have discussed all of the items with the teacher.
- 3) Be open-minded to suggestions from the teacher. Conferences that are centered on collaborative efforts between the teacher and parent about possible strategies to help your child are typically the ones that have the most impact in bringing about change.
- 4) Take notes about what has been discussed to share with your child. By taking notes, you will be better able to communicate the results of the conference with your child which will hopefully lead to a consistency of expectations between parents, teachers, and students.

For Teachers:

- 1) Open on a positive note and focus on strengths. Regardless of a student's challenges or issues, there are always positives about every student. Begin the conference by talking about the positive attributes and strengths of the student.
- 2) Be specific in your comments. When discussing the achievement or behavior of the student with a parent, be specific about exactly what is occurring in the classroom.
- 3) Offer a suggested course of action. Besides simply discussing the challenges or issues, it is also helpful to have possible strategies or courses of action that can be implemented to remedy the situation.
- 4) Forge the jargon. In education, as in many fields, there is a jargon that can be confusing to anyone outside of education. Avoid the use of educational jargon when talking to parents about their child.
- 5) Ask for parents' opinions and listen to what parents say. As mentioned above in the suggestions for parents, the conferences that have the most impact on achievement or behavior are ones where the parents and teachers work

collaboratively towards a solution. Ensuring the parents have a voice that is heard is critical to the success of any parent/teacher conference.

- 6) Keep a record of the conference and follow-up on any commitments. Keeping a record of the conference and the strategies to be implemented will help serve as a reminder to follow-up on what was decided at the conference.

### **School Board Election**

Although the school board election next April may seem a long way off, some important dates are approaching. If you are interested in running, you can obtain the necessary materials at the unit office in Bethany. Below are some dates to keep in mind.

**September 21, 2010**-First day to circulate petitions

**December 13, 2010**-First day candidates may file nominating papers for April election. (Nominating papers are to be filed in the unit office.)

**December 20, 2010**-Last day to file nominating papers and last day to file receipt for Statement of Economic Interest.

**April 5**-Election Day

#### **Important Upcoming Dates:**

**October 7<sup>th</sup>**-No School-Parent/Teacher Conferences

**October 8<sup>th</sup>**-No School-Regional Institute Day

**October 11<sup>th</sup>**-No School-Columbus Day

**October 15<sup>th</sup>**-End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

**October 22<sup>nd</sup>**-Report Cards Sent Home