

# No Parent Left Behind-

## Promoting Student Led Conferences in the Mother Tongue

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- “Students hold the key to much of what they know and are able to do. They understand their strengths and they can identify the things that challenge them.
- Too often however, they are the last people consulted in developing the procedures and practices for the assessment of their own learning.
- Given the opportunity, students can discuss their learning and their growth with others.”

*•From-Assessing and Reporting Progress Through Student-Led Portfolio Conferences by Carol Smith*

# Fish Bowl Role Play

- “What was happening?”
- “How can we avoid this in our student-led conferences?”
  - Disgruntled parent
  - EAL Parent
  - Unprepared student
  - Inexperienced teacher

# Disgruntled Parent

- Just started your child at ISA
- From a national school system where you were all very happy.
- Used to a set of standards.
- Don't understand the purpose or value of student led conferences.
- Liked parent teacher meetings and reports system.
- Become increasingly unhappy with what you are not getting.
- Teacher smiles and sits there nodding, saying very little.

# Unprepared Teacher

- New to PYP
- From a system that had standards and procedures in place uniform for everyone
- Used to teacher/parent meetings and reports without student presence
- Quite nervous about student led conferences.
- Do not want to take over so you smile and sit there nodding, saying very little.
- Now you realize that you had not really organized the student's portfolios well enough or prepared yourself or the students
- You assumed students all knew how to do them.

# Student

- New procedure for you- confused as to value of conferences
- Previously parents reported on what teacher had said after their meeting
- During preparations for conferences you spent time talking to your friends and looking through work.
- Now in conference you realize that the onus is really on you.
- Not prepared
- Work is not organized
- Some of work belongs to another student.
- BUT portfolio is full of work so you spend a lot of time finding work and taking it out and replacing it in the plastic wallets.
- Choose pieces that are neatest and most colourful
- Retell your parents what you did on each piece of work

# EAL Parent

- Partner is away on business and cannot attend- no alternative date given.
- Cannot read letters sent home as English is very poor
- Don't understand 'student led conferences'
- In home system you receive monthly grades to assess how your child is doing against national standards.
- You understand how important this meeting is as there are only 2 each year.
- In your culture teachers are highly respected and wise so it is not correct to question their authority.
- Proud of how your child can speak in English
- You nod and smile and laugh when the teacher does.
- At the end you say thank you and leave but are still unaware of how your child is doing.

Why is it important to share what you are learning and understanding with your family?

# Connect, Extend, Challenge

How are the ideas and information **CONNECTED** to what you already knew?

What new ideas did you get that **EXTENDED** your thinking?

What is still **CHALLENGING**, confusing, puzzling?

# How to Prepare the Students

- Students will ***evaluate their progress*** and select evidence for their ***approaches to learning, achievements*** and ***challenges***.
- Students will have ***time to practice*** sharing and reflecting with peers or another class in the same grade level.
- Students should ***prepare an outline/agenda*** for the conference and discuss what they think their parents may want to know

**Moving on from  
Show and Tell  
towards True Reflection**

# Teacher Guidance

# Skilled Questioning

# Helping your child become a Reflective Learner.

- How does this show your learning and understanding?
- How would it be different if...?
- What are the reasons...?
- If you could repeat this activity would do anything differently...?
- How are you different as a learner this year from last year?
- Which 3 words would you use to describe yourself as a learner?
- What have you found the most challenging?
- What have you enjoyed the most this year? Why?
- How has your understanding changed?
- What do you do that makes you a good group member?
- Are there any areas you think you would like to improve?
- Is there anything you are still wondering/puzzled about?

# How to prepare the parents

- General letter from the Head of Lower School
- **Parent workshop** which includes how to listen well and types of questions that are helpful in directing reflective practice.
- **Parent** response/ comments in **preparation** for the conference.
- Parents will already be **familiar** with the selected 'work' having previously viewed it from **weekly work folders**.

# Parent Homework

- In order to best prepare for the student conference, it would be helpful if you could inform me of some of your most pressing questions/concerns. Here are a few things to think about:
  - **Goals you have for your child**
  - Achievements and strengths
  - Social and behavioural concerns
  - Questions/concerns
  - How your child feels about school
  - Friendships
  - Organisation, independence, and time management skills
  - Things noticed in your child's work

# During the conference

- Students are **encouraged to speak in their mother tongue or** most comfortable language
- Teachers and parents act as **facilitators in the conversation**
- Students share their **selected evidence** with parents emphasizing how this shows their **learning and growth.**
- Teachers **clarify or answer outstanding questions.**

**How do we know what is  
being said even though we  
do not know what is being  
said?**

Clip from SHouf SHouf Habib

**How do we know what is  
being said even though we  
do not know what is being  
said?**

# Promoting Mother Tongue

# **I used to think ...**

...it is just for having a talk with teacher that conference is to listen to teacher, yes very passively

...was just a presentation that children show to the parents what they learned.

...student led conferences might be explanations of student work by children

# But now I think...

... we can talk about what our children are doing, what are their challenges together with our children in our Mother tongue. That's very new but a wonderful idea.

...it would be nice to listen from my children what they learn and how they feel

...the conversation between parents and children is important and student put a lot efforts to prepare conference

## **But now I think...**

... this is really good opportunity for the children to evaluate themselves

...I've learned the importance of the role of parents, how and what kinds of questions should be prepared.

# Valuing the Mother Tongue

...This was not familiar to me in Korea – I was not used to parents to help them at school.

...The whole family used to be nervous before conference because of the language problem but if Japanese were okay, then we'd be relaxed and have a better conference.

...My daughter is not good English speaker, so she will be happy to communicate in Japanese