



Welcome Back to School!

Helpful Ideas for Parent Conferences

Always begin with something positive about the child, then work your way into what needs to be improved upon. *—Janice Allen, Vincennes, IN*

To prepare myself and the parents for conferences, I send home a form with the conference invitation that asks the parents to write down their concerns and questions about their child or school policies, and return it to me before conferences. I also include a list of major topics we have covered and what I expect each child to be able to do. That way, parents can review what their child has done from papers sent home, and it won't be a surprise if their child isn't doing well. Then, I spend conference time working with parents on a plan to help their child. I also keep work samples on hand for conferences. *—Sharlene Hahl, Antioch, IL*

Don't talk down to parents. Be honest and truthful. Try to speak in the positive, not always negative. Offer positive ways to help a struggling child. Make at-home ideas and games to be used by the parents to work with the child. LISTEN to what the parents have to say. Thank them for taking time to come and meet with you on the day of the conference. *—Connie Caldwell, Fort Wayne, IN*

I include the child in the conference so he can proudly show his parents what he's done well. Then we talk about areas to improve on, and together we make a home-school plan that everyone can buy into. The child is now aware that parents and teachers are talking the same language and there is more commitment on all sides. If I or the parent wish to converse in private, that is an option at the end of the conference. *—Sue Welch, Quincy, IL*

I write notes on the child before the conference and put them into two categories; Glows and Grows. This helps me to stay focused on the child and their strengths and needs both academically and behaviorally. *—Melissa Alfonso, Lancaster, PA*



TAL Scholarship Applications

Are now available on the Talnews website.

Deadline for submission is Monday, December 2, 2013

Scholarships will be announced on December 17th at the Rep Council meeting.

District Roundtable—Excellent opportunity for teachers to be seen and heard! Will you be there?

The first district roundtable is scheduled for **Monday, October 21, at 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.** in the Board Room at the District Office. Agenda topics include: Building a Better Budget; Measure L Projects; the Safety First Initiative; Wireless Status; and the Plan for Park View. All employees are invited to join the Superintendent and Executive Cabinet in an open forum type setting to discuss these relevant issues.

2013-2014 Calendar	Rep Council Meetings	Exec Board Meetings	School Board Meetings
October	10/29	10/8	10/1 and 10/15
November	11/19	11/5	11/5 and 11/19
December	12/17	12/10	12/3 and 12/17
January	1/21	1/14	1/7 and 1/21
February	2/15	2/11	2/4 and 2/18
March	No March Mtg.	3/11	3/4 and 3/18
April	4/29	4/8	4/1 and 4/15
May	No May Mtg.	5/13	5/6 and 5/20
June	6/3		6/3 and 6/17

School Safety Issues Addressed by District and School Board

The Board and Administration listened to concerns from TAL members and other school staff and the result was the Safety First Initiative to improve the security of all school sites. The Initiative calls for all employees of the district to wear a photo ID badge during the school day. Volunteers must be screened, approved, and must wear official ID badges while on school grounds. Additionally, all doors in rooms where students are housed will remain locked during the instructional day. The closed campus policy, where no unauthorized adults will be allowed on campus during times when students are present, is the biggest adjustment for both parents and staff. While different sites are in different stages of implementation, these practices will soon be consistent at all our schools.

CTA Disaster Relief Fund

Are you aware that the Disaster Relief Fund provides financial assistance to CTA members who have experienced significant losses due to disasters like the fires in California? The Disaster Relief Fund is a separate special fund for the members of CTA. Money for the fund comes directly from members' contributions. Thanks to this tradition of good will and generosity, members can turn to their professional organization for assistance with dignity. For more information, go to www.CTAMemberBenefits.org/drf, or contact the CTA Member Benefits Department at 650-552-5200.

Grievance Team Site Coverage

Bertha D’Agostino - bad1995@roadrunner.com - Endeavor, Jack Northrop, Miller and Sunnydale

Edith Turriza- eturriza@yahoo.com- New Vista, El Dorado, Monte Vista and Sierra

Kym Hickman- delkym@att.net- Desert View, Discovery, Lincoln, Linda Verde and Piute

Wendy Clark- tricyko@yahoo.com– Amargosa, Crossroads, Joshua and Nancy Cory

Tina Diaz- alexisszach@sbcglobal.net – Mariposa, West Wind, Linda Verde Center, and Spec. Ed/RSP