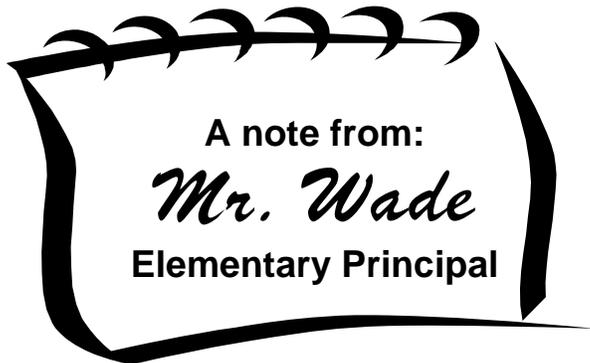


Alexander Elementary



Parents Make A Difference!

Vol. 10 No. 6 February 2008



A note from:
Mr. Wade
Elementary Principal

We would like to remind everyone that Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held February 5th and 7th. There is no school Friday, February 8.

If you have not scheduled a time during Parent-Teacher Conferences between 3:30 PM and 6:30 PM please contact your child's teacher as soon as possible.

It is proven that when parents and teachers maintain strong communication student performance increases. Conferences provide an opportunity to discuss the progress your child is making. Meeting with your child's teacher should help build strong parent-teacher partnerships—partnerships that are needed if you and your child's teacher are to reach your common goal of helping your child get the best education possible.

On the back of this month's newsletter you will find a few tips and a list of good questions you might consider asking during the conference.

NOTICE

At this time there has been no decision to make-up days by changing our school calendar. All missed days due to inclement weather will be made-up at the end of the school year.

FEBRUARY

Parent-Teacher Conferences- 3:30 PM – 6:30 PM Tuesday, February 5th and 7th.

Knock-Out Tournament- Thursday, February 7 at 1:30 PM in the gym.

No School- Friday, February 8.

Valentine's Day- Thursday, February 14.

No School- Friday, February 15
Teacher Professional Day

Book Fair- February 18-22.

Gifted and Talented Field Trip- Thursday, February 21. Tulsa Air and Space Museum.

Jump Rope for Heart Assembly- Monday, February 25. 10:30 AM

4th Grade Field Trip- Wednesday, March 12. Kids, & Kows & More- N.E.O. Indoor Arena

Cultural Kaleidoscope- Thursday, March 13

Spring Break- March 17-21



**Happy Valentines
Day**



From the teachers, staff and administration at
Alexander Elementary



How To Make Parent-Teacher Conferences Work for Your Child

You have been asked to attend a regularly scheduled conference with your child's teacher and you might be a little nervous.

Well, relax. Teachers don't want to put parents on the spot. They just like to meet with parents from time to time to discuss how to help students do their best in school.

All children learn in different ways. They have their own individual personalities, and their own listening and work habits. To help their students learn at their full potential teachers and parents must work together. No one knows more about your child than you, the parent. And no one has more influence over your children than you.

That's why teachers need your help to do a first-class job. Working together, you and the teacher can help your child have a successful school year.

Here Are Some Things To Keep in Mind

- Start the conference right: be there on time, and plan not to run over the amount of time that has been set aside.
- If you are a parent who can't arrange to meet during the conference time make this clear to the teacher and try to set up a time to meet that is good for both of you.
- The best conferences are those in which both teachers and parents try hard to work together for one purpose and one purpose only: to help your child do well.

Getting Ready

Each teacher will probably come prepared with samples of your children's work and with ideas to help them do even better in school. You should get ready for each conference, too.

Before you go to the school, write notes to yourself about:

- Questions about your child's progress
- How you and the school can work together.
- Your concerns about the school's programs or policies.

Here are some good questions you might consider asking during your conference:

1. What are my child's best and worst subjects?
2. Is my child working up to his or her ability?
3. Does my child participate in class discussions and activities?
4. What kinds of tests are being done?
5. What do the tests tell about my child's progress?
6. How does my child handle taking tests?
7. How is my child's behavior at school?
8. How well does my child get along with others?
9. Is there anything other than what we have discussed that you feel I need to be aware of?
10. Is there anything that I can do to help my child? do better in school?

It's a good idea to ask your most important questions first, just in case time runs out before you and the teacher have a chance to discuss them all. Be sure to ask the teacher for specific suggestions on ways to help your child do better. This is the most important part of the meeting. It will become your action plan. If the teacher says something you don't quite understand, don't be shy about asking for an explanation. It's a good idea to end the conference by summing up decisions you've made together. If needed, ask to meet again.

After the Conference

Start immediately on the action plan you and the teacher worked out together. Discuss the plan with your child. Make sure he/she knows that you and the teacher care. To see if the action plan is working, watch your child's behavior and check your child's class work and homework daily.

Stay in regular touch with the teacher to discuss the progress your child is making. Meeting with your child's teacher should help build strong parent-teacher partnerships—partnerships that are needed if you and your child's teachers are going to reach your common goal of helping your child get the best education possible.

The National PTA, National Education Association of the United States.