



Student/Parent/Teacher Three Way Conferences – Term 2

Tuesday 30 June 3:15pm – 8:30pm and Wednesday 1 July 3:15pm – 6:30pm

A reminder that the second Three Way Conference with you and your child takes place in the final week of this term – ie: Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon/evening. We encourage you to bring all the adults in your family who talk with and support your child in their learning eg: Nana, Grandad or the nanny, to these meetings.

At Bellevue we make a considered effort to improve the way that we work with our students and their parents, caregivers and whānau to further develop student learning. In an approach that reflects the intention of the New Zealand Curriculum we particularly encourage students to become more actively involved in their learning and assessment of their progress. The New Zealand Curriculum expectation is that students are 'Managing Self' (one of the key competencies). It is important that we as teachers and parents/caregivers/whānau work together to support children to become more actively involved to take greater ownership and responsibility for their learning.

Current research also encourages students to be an important part of reporting their learning, eg:

Professor **John Hattie** (formerly University of Auckland) published a list of the most effective influences on student achievement which identifies student self-reporting as the most significant indicator linked to raised student achievement. (*Hattie, J. – Visible Learning: A synthesis of over 8000 meta-analyses relating to achievement. New York: Routledge – 2009*).

Michael Absolum states 'If the focus is to be kept on learning, and the ownership of the learning with the child, then the best person to talk about learning is the learner'... 'Not only is the student the best person to tell their parents what they have learnt, but if we believe that students build their knowledge by communicating what they know, then providing an opportunity for the students to tell their family what they know can significantly assist with that learning'. (*Absolum, M. Clarity in the Classroom. Auckland Hodder – 2006*).

Research by **Epstein** and **Bastiani** also shows that parental involvement in schools and classrooms has a positive impact on children's learning. (*Epstein, J.I. – Parents' reactions to teacher practices of parent involvement. Elementary School Journal, 86, 277-294 – 1986 and Bastiani, J. – 'How Many Parents Did You See Last Night?' A critical look at some of the problems of evaluating home/school practice/Parents and teachers 2: From policy to practice, Windsor; nfer/Nelson 206-218*)

So please book your time for these second **Student/Parent/Teacher Three Way Conferences**. They provide a further opportunity for learning to be discussed between children, their parents/caregivers and teachers. The aim of these conferences is to celebrate successes and discuss areas for improvement. They involve highlighting student strengths, current achievement and next learning steps. Following the conferences parents/caregivers should have a clearer picture of their child's current developmental learning needs and goals.

Early in Term 3 you will also receive a written progress report as a follow up to the conferences if your child is in

- Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6.
- Year 1, Year 2 or Year 3 and they are due their anniversary or progress report (ie: at the end of 40 weeks, 80 weeks or 120 weeks at school).

Please note that there will be

- a further progress or anniversary report six months later.
- a written goal sheet to remind you of their current goals and ways you may like to help at home if your child is in Year 1, Year 2 or Year 3 and not due their anniversary or progress report.

We encourage teachers to contact parents/caregivers/whānau **AND** parents/caregivers/whānau to contact teachers at other times of the year if there is further need to share student goals and progress.

Our shared goal

In the 21st Century we are educating students for a significantly different age to the one we grew up in. As such we are working with a curriculum that is very different to our own schooling.

We encourage parents/caregivers/whānau to help value and normalize discussions that focus on learning. Please consider this list of prompts that you may use to support your child in learning conversations:-

What was a helpful question you asked today? What did you find out?
 What was a goal you had today? What did you do to reach it?
 What were you learning to do?
 What were the steps you went through to learn this?
 What was hard about that?
 Can you figure out another way to do that?
 What was something you found hard to learn today?
 What did you do to work through this?
 What might you do differently next time?
 Did anyone do it a different way? How do you think that way may work for you?
 What helped you to learn this?
 What do you need to learn next?
 What are you most proud of? Why?
 Which area of learning do you find the easiest? Why?
 Which area of learning do you find the trickiest? Why?
 What could you do if you got stuck on that?
 How could you help yourself or someone else out with that?
 What could we do together to help you with this learning?
 What might help you do this better next time?

Term 2 Three Way Conference Organisation

Please note that Bellevue School uses an online booking system so that parents can book a convenient time themselves or you can book by ringing the school office. This booking line is now open on www.schoolinterviews.co.nz

Event access code: BF5BX

There are instructions on the site to complete your booking by 3:00pm on Monday 22 June. If you are unable to access the website, please ring the school office and Michele can assist you to make a booking through the school office.

When you come along to your conference, your child and their teacher will have prepared for their conversation about achievement and next learning steps. We aim to have honest, meaningful, real and supportive discussions about achievement and next learning steps/goals. Each conference lasts 15 minutes so a bell will ring to indicate the end of each conference.

Please Note:

It is important that all parents/caregivers **AND their child** attend the scheduled conference time.

The school is providing supervised activities in the library for siblings to attend while you are at these meetings so that you and your child can participate fully in the learning conversation. Please let the office know or send in the slip below if you would like to take up this offer of supervised activities to help us organise activities and the supervisor(s) required.

A feedback sheet regarding conferences will come home with the newsletter in the same week as the conferences to enable you to share the things that worked well for you, also any suggestions for improvements in our Three Way Conferences for next year. You are also very welcome to talk directly to us about how you have found these conferences too.

We are looking forward to seeing you at these meetings with your child on Tuesday 30 or Wednesday 1 July. Please note that you can wait in the warmth of the library or staffroom for your meeting start time. Room 12 meetings are taking place in the teachers' room (next to the staffroom), Room 13 meetings in Room 7, and Room 15 meetings in Room 4 so that you do not need to walk down to the lower level classrooms in the dark. I am available to meet parents/caregivers on both days should you like to take this opportunity.

Ka kite

Karen Hardie ☺
Principal

I/We _____ would like to take up the offer of supervision for the following children when I am at the Three Way Conferences with another of my children on:-

Tuesday 30 June _____ at _____
Child/ren's names *period of time*

Wednesday 1 July _____ at _____
Child/ren's names *period of time*