

Dear Parents,

Communities function effectively when there is clear **communication**. As in any community, there will be misunderstandings or disagreements. Open communication between the parties involved will quickly solve most problems. This week I'd like to share our school's practices regarding communication. Our process is described in the *School Handbook* (on our website). As a general rule, always start with the classroom teacher when you have questions about your child, curriculum, assignments, homework or classroom programs. The teacher may recommend that you talk with Kathy Ruwe, counselor, if you have concerns about your child's relationship with peers or a family crisis.

If you still have questions, please contact me. Together, you, the teacher and I can work to come to an appropriate resolution. The Harvard Family Research Project website, [www.hfrp.org](http://www.hfrp.org), states that "parents and teachers consider communication the number one factor to increase trust. When teachers and parents are on the "same page" they can engage in more individual and concrete discussion around student progress and develop realistic goals and plans of action that are linked to student achievement (Drake 2000; James, Jurich & Estes, 2001)."

This week's Parent-Teacher conferences are a perfect time to communicate about your child's needs and academic progress. I hope you find the time spent with the teacher this week to be meaningful.

Another opportunity to communicate with one another is at the "***Mornings/Evenings with the Principal***" sessions. We had a productive meeting last week. Twelve parents joined me, Superintendent Cesario, Curriculum and Instruction Director Roden and Bond Manager Eric Holm to learn more about construction plans and understanding the Program Improvement designation. The next session is scheduled for February 25 at 9:00 a.m. in Cano Hall. There is always a selected topic for discussion, but these gatherings are also an opportunity for you to get your questions answered. Mark your calendar!

Until next time,

Sue Sartor, Principal