

parent

connection

Parent/ Teacher Interviews:
The Benefits of Attending!

October 2016 - Elementary and secondary schools in Grande Yellowhead Public School Division are holding 'Parent/ Teacher Interviews' (PTIs) throughout the month of October. With increasingly busy lives and schedules, we sometimes forget the benefits of attending these type of events. Research shows that parent involvement in schools helps students achieve more and schools thrive. So here are some little reminders of why attending 'PTI' night is important to help your child succeed in their learning!

What are Parent/ Teacher Interviews?

Parent/Teacher Interviews are short face-to-face sessions between you and your child's teacher, often only 10-15 minutes, usually after each reporting period. Schools usually send a notice home with information on scheduling interviews. Interviews may be held in the teacher's classroom, or may take place in the library, gym or other space within the school. In elementary and middle schools, the teacher will often bring sample work and grades for individual assignments. In secondary schools grades for individual assignments will usually be on hand for discussion. Many parents bring their children to the interview so that the school, student and family can work collaboratively together to ensure success in your child's learning.

PTIs provide great opportunities to ...

Hear From Your Child. Talk to your child before the interview. Find out what he or she enjoys most about school and if your child has any worries or concerns to address with the teacher. Does your child seem happy about school? *What is their favourite part of the day? What is the best thing that happened to them? What makes them sad?* These are open-ended questions that will allow your child to answer more than yes or no.

Hear Direct from Their Teacher. Take this time to investigate what the year ahead has in store for your child. You will get to personally meet them and having a healthy relationship with your child's teacher goes a long way. If you get to know them, they'll feel more comfortable contacting you if your child is struggling in class.

Advocate for Your Child. Let your child's teacher know if your son or daughter has any learning concerns. Ask the teacher if he/she have any first impressions of your child – is he/she a good listener, cooperates with others, participates in class. In return, you can offer some valuable insights into their personality at home. Working together, the school and family can be great partners in education. By attending the interview, you also show your child that you value and are interested in his/her learning and school experience.

Network. Waiting for your turn to chat with your child's teacher can also be a great opportunity to catch up or be introduced to other parents, meet your child's friends and say hello to current and past teachers. School administration are always on site so take the opportunity to meet with them as well. Take time to learn what the school has to offer for extra-curricular activities and how you can volunteer and support the school. A win for everyone.



Grande Yellowhead stretches from Jasper National Park, east to Evansburg, and north to the Town of Grande Cache. The jurisdiction includes 18 schools, 5 Learning Connection Centres, approximately 5,000 students, & 600 staff members.

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PTI Tips for Success



During the interview:

- Teachers schedule appointments so that they can meet with as many parents as possible so remember to be clear about what you want to learn that night as soon as you sit down. For example: “Thank you for meeting with me. I would like to discuss my daughter’s progress in math.”
- Use your list of questions to make sure you haven’t left anything out.
- Don’t hesitate to make notes while the teacher is talking so that you will remember what he/she said once you get home.
- If there is a particular identified concern, discuss developing an action plan together.
- Be open to the discussion as both the school and you as the parent want the best for your child.
- Ask the teacher about the classroom rules, homework, and student expectations.
- Ask about your child’s work habits, behaviour, participation, and learning style.

After the interview:

- End the interview on a positive note and keep in regular contact with the teacher to follow-up on any mutually agreed action plans.
- If your child hasn’t attended with you, remember that most children are aware of these interviews and may be anxious about them – as soon as possible you should talk to your child about what was discussed and how you and the teacher will work together to support his or her learning.
- Stay involved in the life of the school and classroom to better support your child.

Sample Questions to Ask:

- How does your child get along with others?
- What is being worked on or the focus of class right now?
- What will be covered in this subject area or grade this year?
- Does the teacher have any specific concerns?
- Is your child missing any assignments?
- How are my child’s work habits? Is time in class spent well?
- Does my child come prepared for class (ie paper, pen)?
- Does my child qualify or need any special programs or resources or additional supports for learning? If yes, how do I ensure they get them?
- Does my child read at the level you would expect for this grade?
- Is my child able to do the math you would expect for this grade?
- Is there anything they feel your child needs extra help or practice with at home?
- How are grades determined/ how are students assessed?
- Will there be homework every night? How long should my child do homework at night?
- What resources or tools are available to help with homework or projects?
- How can I help my child prepare for tests?
- What can I do to help my child be more successful at school?
- What’s the best way of communicating with you (the teacher)?

And remember, if the meeting dates don’t work with your schedule, please contact your child’s teacher directly to set up another mutually convenient time.

Welcome to another great year at Grande Yellowhead!