

August 30, 2011

Quarter 1, Week 7

CPSC Weekly Update

...words of wisdom from John and important dates to remember

From the Director...

Dear CPSC Families,

"Can a public, project-based school help all students succeed?" This question inspired the creation of our school ten years ago and continues to fuel our daily work. As the first quarter comes to a close I wanted to share a little about some of the core elements of project work and how it relates to the first quarter parent/teacher conferences.

Project-based learning is a style of instruction that is student-centered, interdisciplinary and collaborative. Students must think creatively to solve real world problems, while managing their own work, resources and time. One major goal of project work is to create self-propelled learners. Just as the students take on greater responsibility for their learning, the teacher's role requires unique skills and resources different than what are typically used in a traditional classroom. With student-directed work, teachers guide their students to ask relevant and probing questions, organize their work, collaborate and communicate effectively.

As with most of our instruction, project work is differentiated, meaning it is not a 'one size fits all' approach. The teacher meets children at their developmental level and challenges them through rigorous projects to reach new academic and social goals. At the end of the first quarter, each child's project-work skill set will have been assessed by the teacher, whether or not an in depth project has been completed. At your upcoming conference be sure to review your child's performance with these questions in mind:

How well does he/she listen to others and discuss alternative viewpoints?

What type of questions does he/she ask?

Does he/she think of multiple solutions to creatively solve problems?

How does he/she organize her materials to prepare her/his work?

When and how does he/she communicate her/his ideas?

We hope this conference helps you understand where your child is starting the year academically and socially and set goals for your child as a learner.

Yours,
John

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Mon, **Sept. 5 Labor Day Holiday** – No School

Wed, **Sept. 7 Early Dismissal** for all students (ASP begins at 1:30PM)

Thur., **Sept. 8 Website Committee meeting** at 4:30pm in Aaron's room

Fri., **Sept. 9 Grandparent Muffin Morning** for grades K- 2, 8:30 – 9:30 AM

Sun., **Sept. 11 ALL SCHOOL PICNIC** at Forest Hills Park, 4-7PM

Mon, **Sept. 12 Grandparent Muffin Morning** for grades 3-5, 8:30 – 9:30 AM

Sat, **Sept. 17 ALL SCHOOL WORKDAY**, 9:00AM – 12:00PM

Tue., **Sept. 20 Parent Discussion Group: Social Development** from 6:45-7:45pm