

RAUMATI BEACH SCHOOL

4 May 2017

Dear Parents & Guardians,

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES - MATHEMATICS

At Raumati Beach School we encourage our students to be actively involved in the learning and reporting process. One aspect of this process is the student-led conference. Evidence from national and international research continues to support the student-led conference as an effective way for students to share information about their learning. These conferences can also help to strengthen relationships between home and school, and ensure that the home-school partnership is one that actively and meaningfully supports and enhances learning.

What is a student-led conference?

A student-led conference is a conversation between a student and their parents/whanau, which is focussed entirely on the student's recent learning. The conversation is led by the student.

Student-led conferences allow students to take greater responsibility for their learning, and to be able to report on their progress. Students can share their learning with their whanau and talk about what they have learnt, what they have done well, what they need to focus on next and why it is important.

We introduced the concept of student-led conferences in 2015 and the feedback received from parents, students and teachers has been extremely positive. Parents have especially enjoyed the conversations they have had with their child around their learning. The conferences this year will follow the same format as last year with a focus on the mathematics learning area.

Some activities you may be involved in during the student-led conference could be: looking at samples of your child's learning in mathematics, working on an activity which supports understanding of your child's learning, talking about learning goals your child may have and looking at work around the classroom.

Some classes may set up stations where students and their parents can move around and look at different aspects of mathematics and mathematical learning.

Format:

- Date: Thursday 25th May
- Time: 3:20pm – 5:40pm
- Seven 20 minute sessions, with a bell after 15 mins to allow for transition between sessions. Parents do not need to stay for the full 20 mins.
- There will be four or five conferences running at the same time in your child's classroom
- To support your child and enable them to stay focussed, we would like to keep distractions to a minimum. Please turn cell phones off during the conference and we would encourage you where possible, to make alternative arrangements for the care of younger siblings.

How to book a student-led conference

Booking forms will be available from Monday 15th May outside classrooms for you to book your time.

Important points to remember

- **The student-led conference at Raumati Beach School will focus on** students talking about their qualities as a learner, and the impact these qualities have on specific tasks and their progress & achievement.
- In student-led conferences, the student takes the central role and has the responsibility to run the conference with the teacher there to support.
- During discussions, parents and /or the teacher can support and prompt (if necessary) but do not take the leading role.
- The teacher will be in the room during the conference but their role is to act as the facilitator, they do not sit with the student and parent.
- The conference is about learning—not behaviour or social issues. If there are concerns concerning behaviour or social interactions, an appointment needs to be made to discuss these at a more appropriate time.
- Student-led conferences are a wonderful opportunity for you to listen and talk with your child in his/her learning environment. Enjoy and celebrate your child's progress and current learning successes.

Regards,

Julie Morris
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT