

The Superintendent Reports

What are you doing tomorrow, October 18? If you are the parent of school age children, I hope you have built in your schedule a visit to the appropriate school or schools in which they are enrolled!

Why? Hopefully you know. However, in case it has slipped your mind, October 18th is parent-teacher conference day!

The purpose of this column is to focus on the rationale behind the establishment of such a day in the school calendar.

In the past, many parents have expressed a desire for a specific day during which they could meet alone with a teacher or teachers for the purpose of discussing their child's performance in school. In that report cards were sent home earlier this week (Tuesday), school personnel thought that this would be a most opportune time for parent-teacher conferences.

Such a day facilitates communication between parent and teacher, teacher and pupil, as well as all three parties - teacher, parent and child. In essence, if a good eyeball to eyeball discussion is held, where mutual concern regarding his or her strengths and weaknesses in classroom performance, social responsibility, self-discipline, work-study habits are communicated, everyone benefits.

The child benefits in that he hopefully perceives that his parents care enough about him to leave work or home to discuss his progress in school.

However, parental presence at school for an evaluation conference teaches more than caring. It conveys a hidden or unspoken agenda to a child. That is, his parent has demonstrated a respect for authority: namely, the teacher

and school officials. In addition, the parent is affirming to his child that adherence to a standard of performance is important. Thus, the child learns that although he is responsible for his own actions, his parent and teachers want to do their part to insure that he maintains a high standard.

Both teachers and parents frequently state that the home and school must cooperate if children are to make maximum progress. Teachers realize that continuous, thorough evaluation of each child is necessary if the correct educational environment is to be prepared for him. Education is a joint responsibility of teachers and parents. Thus, parents must be partners in the evaluation process.

Though a parent-teacher conference both can look at a child's capabilities, his personality and his accomplishments and check to see how realistic they are for him; information must be exchanged on his interests, his health, his reactions to school and on any other item which is related to his development.

Parents and teachers are partners in educating children; hence, each must assume a reasonable share of the responsibilities and privileges. When there is a partnership, the more positive a relationship and the better the joint understanding. In such a partnership, each party, parent-teacher-child, can benefit.


Harbor Tour

Ninety-one 4-Hers, leaders, and other youth went on a tour of the Norfolk-Portsmouth Harbor as part of the 4-H Club Week celebration.

This tour included the Nation's oldest shipyard, the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy and other historical landmarks. The guided educational tour gave a panoramic view of bust cargo piers, shipyard bustling with activity, modern warships, high aircraft carriers, sleek submarines, and rocket firing missile ships.

The 4-Hers represented students from Swain, D. F. Walker, John A. Holmes, and Chowan Schools as well as Chowan Academy. Adults accompanying the tour were Mrs. Erie Jordan, Mrs. Eugene Jordan, Mrs. Lin Jordan, Mrs. Yates Parrish, Mrs. Frances M. Ward, Miss Sandra Jones, Wayland Spivey and Murray Goodwin.

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FOR SHOW ...

It's not too late to enjoy an area attraction which is currently in progress. If you take pleasure from viewing art, don't miss the current exhibits at Museum of The Albemarle.

The museum is sponsoring its Fifth Invitational Art Show this week. Area artists have their best works displayed. There is something for everyone.

Be sure to make plans now to spend a portion of your weekend at Museum of The Albemarle, and see for yourself!

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