

The Hawk's Nest

By: Nannette M. Mills

Most of us have experienced it; the dreaded parent/teacher conference. We sit in the tiny chair across from our child's teacher and pray our son or daughter is doing his/her best and that all is well. I get nervous visiting my children's teachers, and I AM a teacher! Thankfully, the parents of grade nine students at Hodgdon High School will have a different experience on Wednesday, April 25th, as the students will be doing "all the talking" as they present their year-long achievements and goals to their parents or guardians.

Come prepared to give your child your undivided attention as they walk you through their freshman portfolio which includes their personal learning plan, several pieces of work they are proud of from each subject, community service information, and more. Your child will lead the discussion about their strengths and areas needing improvement, while you listen intently and ask questions directed to your son or daughter.

The following are a few quotes from parents at the Merriam School in Acton, Massachusetts, concerning student led conferences:

"I find these student-led conferences to be a powerful way to hear directly from my child how she describes her learning, what she found most important and what she found most challenging."

"My daughter's student-led conference provides an opportunity for me to see and understand what she's been learning in school. But, more importantly, it's an opportunity to hear what she thinks about her own work. Witnessing her pride in her achievements and her reflective process is one of the most wonderful experiences I've had as a parent."

"I enjoy hearing their perspective on their own work and seeing their excitement about being able to do it themselves. The student-led conferences are just really cool - the way they learn how to organize it ahead of time and then getting experience with presenting your own work. Most people don't have that kind of experience until they are an adult."

The ninth graders are preparing for your arrival on Wednesday, April 25th, so mark your calendars today. We will be sending detailed information in the mail and calling to set up an appointment from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Every child must be involved in the student-led conference so please make it a priority to be there for your child. If you have any questions, please call the school at 532-2413 and speak to a freshman class advisor or email us at: www.msad70.net.

Lastly, a BINGO afternoon is being held at the Linneus Sno Sports Club sponsored by the Hodgdon Project Grad on Saturday, March 24th from 2-4:30. You must be 16 years old to play. Come out and support our graduates of the class of 2007!