

The best way to understand how your child is doing is a parent-teacher interview

Your child's education should be a partnership between teachers and family members.

That's why it is important to establish a relationship with your child's teachers.

Here are some ideas to make the most out of the parent-teacher interview session:

1. Come prepared by keeping track of your child's homework habits so that you will be aware of how he/she performs in specific subjects.

2. Collect samples of your child's work so that you can ask specific questions.

3. Keep a list of concerns or questions that you have.

4. Whenever possible emphasize how delighted you are that your child becomes excited about some specific learning task. Discuss positive aspects of your child's work as well as concerns.

5. Inform the teacher of your child's work habits and behaviour at home. This will allow the teacher to understand your child's classroom behaviour.

6. Listen carefully to what the teacher has to say. He or she spends a great deal of time with your child and knows a great

deal about him or her.

7. Inform the teacher if you child is participating in out side-of-school activities.

8. Before leaving the interview, tell the teacher that you would welcome constant feedback on your child's progress and behaviour and indicate that you are willing to help in anyway possible.

9. Tell the teacher that you will keep in regular contact with him or her.

10. Above all, remember that the teacher is just as eager as you are to establish a collaborative relationship with you.

Teaching students at their own pace

Wishing Well Montessori's small classroom size allows teachers to give specialized attention to every student

Every student at Wishing Well Montessori Private School is a special needs student.

"All children have their own needs," said Connie Xuereb, the principal at Wishing Well Montessori.

And at Wishing Well, in class work, homework and tests are tailored to fit the learning abilities of each student.

This way "nobody falls through the cracks. Nobody feels pushed (to learn a concept) or have to wait" for everyone else to catch up.

Wishing Well is able to do this because of their low student to teacher ratio.

In Markham, Wishing Well has two schools - Casa Montessori for children two and a half years old to six and junior and high school for students from Grades 1 to OAC.

In Casa Montessori, there are two certified teachers per classroom.

"We don't use teacher assistants, just certified teachers."

For the older students, there is one teacher for 15 to 20 students.

Regardless, the school's goal is to "get the child to reach his/her full potential."

Xuereb said all the students wear a school uniform and are taught "to take pride in the way they present themselves because their work reflects the way they look."

While the school teaches the basics like math, science and English, the

school also teaches skills the students will be able to use throughout their life.

"The teachers have high expectations of the students. Likewise, the students rise to meet their high expectation."

But school isn't everything and Wishing Well Montessori school provides a range of extra-curricular activities including sports.

Not only does Wishing Well have a state-of-the-art facility, it also has two gyms, two computer labs, a science lab, two fields (including a soccer field), baseball diamond, a playground with a jungle gym and more.

Wishing Well also has before and after school programs for students whose parents work.

The children six and under can participate in arts, crafts as well as music programs, while the older students can work in a supervised homework room as well as other activities.

Wishing Well Montessori also provides a summer camp as well as extra tutoring.

Wishing Well Montessori - which has been in Markham for the past 10 years - is located at 455 Cochrane Dr. in Markham.

They are open 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday. For details or a tour call 905-470-9751.

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OPEN HOUSE

JANUARY 21ST, 1999 6:30 - 9:00 P.M.

GRADE ONE ENTRANCE INFO: 7:00 P.M.

HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE INFO: 8:00 P.M.

<p style="text-align: center;">CASA CLASSES</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Ages 2-1/2 - 6 years</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A structured program with high academic standards in a nurturing environment.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Daily French instruction.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All fully qualified Montessori teachers.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Grades 1-8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A challenging academic program that enables each student to reach his/her personal potential.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Homework, end of term exams and itemized report cards provide students and parents with accurate progress evaluation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Supervised after school homework rooms.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HIGH SCHOOL</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Grade 9 - OCA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Small classes, high academic standards and a friendly, multicultural environment prepare our students for the challenges of the future.</p>
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Extra curricular activities include: Competitive Team Sports, Ballet, Judo, Music, Choir, Gardening Club, Arts & Crafts, Cooking and Mandarin Classes.