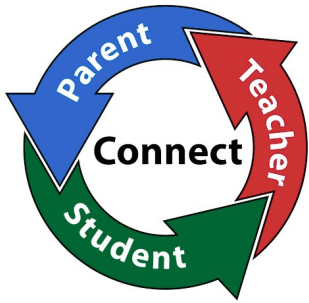




Effective Feedback

Effective Feedback is not praise nor criticism. It is carefully chosen language and actions that propel a learner forward.

(Regie Routman—Literacy and Learning Lessons from a Longtime Teacher)



My goal with electronic portfolios is to increase communication and collaboration about student learning between students, teacher and parents. The Harvard Family Research Project has shown that "the academic achievement ... for children whose parents were highly involved in their education was substantially higher than that of their counterparts whose parents were less involved." (www.hfrp.com).

This year I am inviting parents to engage in year long, three way (student/parent/child) conversations using DESCRIPTIVE FEEDBACK:

- detailed, specific feedback that provides what the learner can do
- what the learner needs to learn
- reflection on, and specific direction for, next steps in learning

Good Job. Way to go. Excellent. Hearing these words from their teachers and parents may make your child feel good, but they don't let them know what they did well.

When commenting on your child's work, avoid blanket praise (*Great job! Fantastic work!*). Instead, describe specifics of what your child did well and how they can improve. Give your child positive, specific feedback on the **effort** they've made and what they've accomplished. For example, "I can tell that you were really focused on colouring within the lines."

Keep these questions in mind when commenting on your child's work.

- What do you notice about your child's work?
- What has your child learned to do?
- How do you know they have learned?
- What is the evidence that shows the learning?
- What are the next steps in learning?

View your child's portfolio with them and have a discussion about what they've learned, and what they might do differently next time. Feel free to record their comments on their portfolio. After all, it is their work that is being showcased to provide the evidence of learning that is happening in our class.

If you have any questions about Freshgrade, or your child's portfolio, please do not hesitate to contact me.