

Dear Watershed Community,

Not surprisingly, years of research have shown that strong relationships between parents and schools lead to better academic and social/emotional outcomes for students (e.g., Fan & Chen, 2001; Pomerantz et al., 2012). With this in mind, I was to share two things we are doing in the next week to help build this relationship.

Next week, on Thursday and Friday, we will have our trimester one Student-Led Conferences. For these, we really have three goals. First, this is a moment of reflection. A time for students to take stock of the courses so far, reflect on work they are proud of, and perhaps set goals for the rest of the term. Second, it's a time for educators, parents, and students to think together about how things are going – celebrating successes and thinking about next steps. And third, underlying all of this, is the building of relationships – building connections so we are all more likely to reach out to one another in support of student learning and growth. If you have not yet signed up for conference slots, I strongly encourage you to do so – we hope to see you next week! ([sign up here!](#))

Another way we are hoping to build connections with parents is through a series of webinars in partnership with the Association of Colorado Independent Schools. The first of these is tonight (you've probably already seen an invite from the WPA): *Voice Lessons for Parents & Caregivers: What to Say, When to Say It & How to Listen – a conversation with Wendy Mogel, Clinical Psychologist & Author*. A number of parents are gathering at school (5:15-7:00) to watch together, share some snacks, and have conversation after the webinar. If you haven't registered, you are still welcome – let me know and I can pass the info along to ensure we have enough snacks. If you cannot make it tonight, don't worry. The webinar is being recorded and we will share the link in FridgeNotes when it's available. Also, there are five more of these throughout the school year! ([See descriptions here](#)).

I close with a note of gratitude for our families. Thank you for trusting us with the education of your children, and thank you for your partnership in this good work!

Warmly,

Tim

Articles referenced above:

Fan, X., & Chen, M. (2001). Parental involvement and students' academic achievement: A meta-analysis. *Educational Psychology Review*, 13(1), 1–22.

Pomerantz, E. M., Kim, E. M., & Cheung, C. S.-S. (2012). Parents' involvement in children's learning. In K. R. Harris, S. Graham, T. Urdan, S. Graham, J. M. Royer, & M. Zeidner (Eds.), *APA educational psychology handbook: Individual differences and cultural and contextual factors* (Vol. 2, pp. 417–440). American Psychological Association.

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