

TREEHOUSE ROOTS

News for Caregivers

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treehouseforkids.org

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Making the Most of Parent-Teacher Conferences

Welcome back-to-school! As you embark on the new academic year with your child, we encourage you to engage with school teachers and administrators, and be open and honest about how they can help ensure your child's success in the classroom. Parent-teacher conferences are usually held once a year in October or November, and are a great opportunity to share information, solve problems, and form a relationship to help your student succeed all year long. If needed, you can also request to meet with your child's teacher at different times throughout the year. For example, if your child has specific medical, emotional, or

educational needs, it's best to schedule a time to address these needs at the very beginning of the school year, to ensure your child has the resources they need to start the year strong.

In order to build the most successful learning environment possible for your child (at school and at home), the teacher needs to hear from you and you need to hear from the teacher. Remember, you know more about your child's specific experiences and needs than anyone else. Talking with the teacher about your child will help pave the way for your student to do well in class, and *continued on page 1*.

SEE INSIDE FOR WEARHOUSE HOURS!

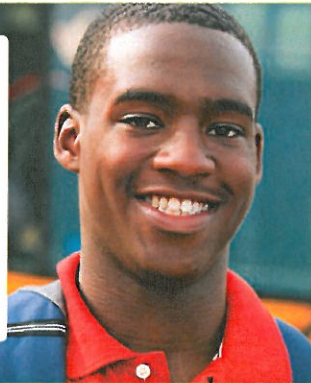


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will also help you understand what is being taught in the classroom. Conferences are usually short and to the point, so having a plan about what you want to discuss with the teacher ahead of time can help ensure effective use of your time, and the teacher's time. We hope the guide (to the right of this page) is a helpful tool to ensure your child has the best year possible!



Little Wishes Activity Of The Month

As summer turns to fall, and the sun to rain, your child may be interested in a new activity to keep them entertained inside. Our featured Little Wishes activity for this edition of Roots is focused on music, specifically piano lessons. Through the practice of piano, youth often find they become more creative, confident and disciplined. Studies have also shown that learning to play the piano can have positive effects on school achievement!

In addition to being a fun and rewarding exercise, research shows that practicing the piano can provide the following benefits:

- Students enrolled in piano lessons display significantly higher language and mathematics test scores than students who don't study music, regardless of household income level and education
- Piano lessons can help a child learn a second language and improve reading abilities in first languages
- Piano lessons improve creativity in youth of all ages
- Participation in piano lessons can help facilitate more meaningful foster parent and teacher involvement in the student's life
- Discovering a new musical ability boosts confidence and self-esteem

If your youth is interested in taking piano lessons, call Little Wishes at 206.267.5125 for instructor suggestions and help with lesson fees!



Helping Your Child Succeed in the Classroom:

Preparing For A Successful Conference

Before The Conference

- Reserve 15 – 20 minutes to sit down with your child and discuss their questions and/or concerns about school
- Ask your child to share all school communication and materials, and check your child's progress reports, report cards, and school work
- Prepare a list of questions/issues you'd like to discuss with the teacher before your conference or meeting, and bring the list with you
- Write down any information about your child that could affect their performance or behavior in the classroom (e.g. a death in the family, divorce, financial situation, illness, a new home), and share this with the teacher
- If you need help with transportation, childcare coverage, or a specific meeting time to attend the conference, your child's school can help - call the school office and share your concern/need
- If English is not your first language, have someone contact the school before the parent-teacher conference and request an interpreter to assist you during the meeting

During The Conference

- Let the teacher open the meeting, but feel free to share your list of questions
- Ask the teacher what your child should know and be able to do by the end of the school year, based on where they are now
- Make a plan for how you and the teacher will work with your child to reach those goals at school and at home
- Find out the best way (e.g. notes, phone calls, e-mail) and the best time to communicate with the teacher throughout the school year

After The Conference

- Thank your child's teacher for their time and support
- Continue to write down ongoing questions or concerns as they arise
- Share these questions and concerns on an ongoing basis with your child's teacher, considering the preferred method (notes, phone, or email), and best time of day to communicate with him/her

Calendar

| | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|------|---|---|---------|-----------|----------|---|---|
| SEPT | 9 | | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Wearhouse 10am-2pm |
| | 16 Wearhouse CLOSED FOR INVENTORY | 17 Wearhouse CLOSED FOR INVENTORY | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Wearhouse CLOSED FOR INVENTORY | 22 Wearhouse CLOSED FOR INVENTORY |
| | 23 Wearhouse CLOSED FOR INVENTORY | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Wearhouse CLOSED FOR INVENTORY | 29 Wearhouse CLOSED FOR INVENTORY |
| OCT | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Wearhouse 10am-2pm |
| | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| NOV | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 Wearhouse 10am-2pm |

TLC HOURS

The Treehouse Learning Center (TLC) will start on September 17 and will run Monday-Thursday from 3:00pm-6:00pm. The TLC is open to help students with credit retrieval, homework, and academic projects including job applications, resume writing, college applications, and career event applications.

THE WEARHOUSE: TUES 2-7 PM, THUR 10-4 PM

You can shop for each youth up to five times per school year (with one "freebie" extra holiday-themed visit in December). We ask that you wait at least 30 days between visits, and arrive at least one hour before closing time to allow for enough time to shop. Please bring a photo ID (for caregiver or child) to show at check-in.

NOTE: The Wearhouse will be closed for inventory September 16th – 30th.

GIRLS GROUP

A partnership between Treehouse and the Junior League of Seattle, Girl's Group is a great way for young teens to meet new friends and have fun while participating in a new activity. Girl's Group is scheduled to meet once a month in the evenings during the 2012-2013 school year, and is appropriate for youth ages 12-18. The first meeting is scheduled for October 25th. Girl's Group provides dinner and a taxi ride home for participants. For more information or to enroll your youth, contact Kristine Garcia at 206.267.5171 or Kristine@treehouseforkids.org.

BOYS GROUP

A partnership between Treehouse and Seattle Works, Boy's Group is a great way for young teens to decompress and meet new mentors and friends. Boy's Group is scheduled to meet on the 4th Wednesday evening of each month during the 2012-2013 school year, and is appropriate for youth ages 14-18. The first meeting is scheduled for September 26th. Boy's Group provides dinner and bus tokens for transportation for participants. For more information or to enroll your youth, contact Sam Martin at sam@treehouseforkids.org.

STAFF BIO

Kristine Garcia:

Helping Youth Reach their Potential



We're thrilled to introduce you to Kristine Garcia, who we are fortunate to have lead the TLC (Treehouse Learning Center), our drop-in tutoring center for 6th-12th grade youth. The TLC is located in our building in the Rainier Valley neighborhood. In addition to running

the TLC, she is also the "head honcho" for Aventa, our online credit retrieval service that allows youth to make up classes they were previously unable to pass. This summer she also ran our Middle School Summer Academy, where students engaged in a rigorous academic curriculum mixed with exciting opportunities like building their own robots and learning sportsmanship in Brazilian jujitsu classes. Kristine is passionate about making the TLC a place where our students can reach their academic potential – inside and outside of the classroom. In her free time, she enjoys clipping coupons, baking with her grandmother every Sunday and going rock climbing with friends.

Treehouse Wearhouse Book & Bag Bonanza

Have you heard? The Wearhouse is happy to offer as many books as your child can read this fall! Our Wearhouse book corner is stocked with exciting stories for all ages and reading levels – including picture books, beginning readers, chapter books, academic support books, popular teen novels, and the classics! With a broad range of stories – adventure, mystery, drama and more – our shelves hold something for everyone. Be sure to check-out the Wearhouse library on your next visit. If you have gently used books you'd like to donate back to the Wearhouse, please feel free to bring them along for a swap!

SPECIAL OFFER!

Beginning September 4th, Wearhouse shoppers who bring their own bags to transport their items will be allowed to select "one extra item" of their choice, each time you visit! Bringing your re-usable bags will help the Wearhouse minimize the cost of providing plastic bags and it's better for the environment.

