

# COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

**2016 - 2017**

As the school year begins, there is no more important task than identifying how communication will occur between home and school. In many ways, systems of communication can set the stage for how relationships unfold over the course of the school year. Establishing a respectful relationship between teachers and caregivers is critical, especially when working through challenges that may occur.

Educators should keep in mind that whatever form they choose, positive comments should **always** outweigh negative comments.

## **Communication Logs:**

When consistent communication is kept with parents, you will be better equipped to have effective classroom management. Regardless of your reward system, when you communicate in a positive manner with parents regularly, they will be apt to listen and respond when you contact them regarding a behavior problem.

In order for this communication to be effective, you must communicate in a professional and positive manner. If the only communication the parents hear from you is regarding behavior problems, it will be as if you are calling to “cry wolf”; do this too many times and your call may go unanswered. Eventually the parents will stop the open lines of communication or stop caring. **DO NOT** get into long drawn out conversations, talk about personal problems and never ever discuss issues concerning other students or staff.

**REMEMBER:** always be clear as to the reason you are telephoning or writing to a parent; what is it you want / need / expect them to do...is it realistic and professional.

We wish you all the best for a wonderful school year experience. Enjoy your students, remember each of them have many positive and wonderful gifts to share.