



Assessment Week at Three Peaks School

Dear Parents,

We are entering our time of assessments - a time of gaining a window into our childrens' minds. This is an opportunity for us to see how your children are organising knowledge, synthesising ideas, and mastering skills. We can also gain valuable insight into the habits of learning that are formed or lacking in the young scholar.

Any time there is an assessment, we are challenged to shed old paradigms for evaluating learning. As a parent, you can do much to hinder your child's natural desire for knowledge if you encourage your child to review and cram for these assessments. The desire for knowledge is fragile and can be destroyed by anxious questioning.

Unlike traditional testing, children are not given study sheets or review lessons weeks in advance. In fact, we are not really interested in assessing information learned for a test with a few hours of cramming.

Instead, Three Peaks assessments evaluate what children have gained in the way of real knowledge and understanding. They tell us about the relationships the child has formed with the subject content. They give us a glimpse of the vital ideas that are germinating in their minds.

Assessment week is our opportunity to learn what our children really know. They allow us to "take a picture" of a child's knowledge gained over time. They give insight into what our children have absorbed through their books, lessons, and observation. They assess the child's growth in the skill of narration. They give us a closer look at the knowledge that has taken root in the child.

Many of our children are excited about this period of assessments - join them in a rare delight for telling back all that they have learned.

Sincerely,

Nicolette Skead

Principal

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