

*Development of rationally sound learning procedures must take into account learner characteristics
– Robert Gagne*

Report cards

Report cards are documents provided periodically to parents describing the progress of a student in school. Although the world around us has changed dramatically, report cards have not. Both content and format, at least the ones I've seen, remain virtually unchanged and still include a listing of courses, a grade, some coding and a few comments by one or more teachers. I am told that report cards in some places are computer generated.

I know that report cards are only part of the communication process, however, I believe that report cards require a new focus, a new look, a new image and even a new name. We should consider report cards as planning tools, perhaps even learning plans and, depending on the age of the student, a planning tool for the student as well as the parent and teacher. Why not make report cards an interim report of progress towards goals - a report on work completed and work planned. Some suggest that the plan of action be signed by the three key stakeholders, learner, parent and teacher but that is certainly much more formal than I think is needed.

Given the adoption of the OBE model, it would be logical for a report card to include:

- A recap of the outcomes pursued, levels achieved and work yet to be done.
- New outcomes.
- Cautions, hurdles or deficiencies and plans to deal with them.
- New instructions, if any, for the student and parent

A progress report of this kind would give real meaning to the concept of parents as partners.

Workshops

Montague: Tuesday, February 18 at the Rural Action Centre, 540 Main St, starting at 7:00 pm. Storm date Thursday, February 20, 2014

Summerside: Tuesday, March 11 at Credit Union Place, Summerside starting at 7:00 pm, Storm date March 12, 2014

Workshops will lead off with a review of a recent study of issues important to youth commissioned by the Community Foundation of Prince Edward Island. Following a presentation by Steve McQuaid, Vice President of the Foundation and Katherine MacDonald, Researcher, participants will engage in a round-table discussion about the findings, especially those related to issues of "preparedness". Workshops are sponsored by Education 20/20 and are open to the public.

Website

Check out our website, and...

<http://www.education2020.ca>

Our thanks to Tom White-Hassler who may be reached at: websteward@education2020.ca

...watch for other announcements coming soon.

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