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Dear Families,

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. As we approach Christmas break, we want to let you know about an exciting and important new practice that we want to launch this year--student-led conferences. In late January, your child will lead a presentation to reflect on his or her progress, show you his or her work, and receive feedback. For those of you who are familiar with how the ELC works, this will be a restructuring of the Mid-year Celebration of Learning (MCoL). You, your child, your child's community teacher, and any other adult your student or the teacher would like to invite, will participate in the conference.

The teachers of the ELC have been studying ways to improve and enrich student reflection. We feel that student-led conferences are a very important way to engage students in understanding and taking ownership of their learning. We also believe this conference structure will help us to build better communication with all families for the second half of the year.

As parents and family members, you are critical partners in helping support your child's learning and growth. Our new conference structure will be a very important way to show this support. In the coming weeks, your child's community teacher will send home more detailed information describing the conferences. Please respond to the request for information about scheduling. We are counting on 100% participation as we launch student-led conferences.

Sincerely,

Sheldon Steele and the ELC staff