

Parent/Teacher Interview Script

Teacher = T

Parent = P

T: Hello, it's so nice to see you again! How have you been?

P: Good, things have been busy around the house lately with all of the extra sports these guys are doing.

T: He mentioned he was taking skating lessons, was there anything else?

P: Yes, we have also been going to swimming lessons for the last few weeks. He seems to be liking it, but there is something every day of the week.

T: That explains why he's so tired some days, you got a busy boy. How are you finding your transition to Alberta?

P: It has been harder than we expected sometimes. The people are nice here, but it is so different from our home.

T: In what ways?

P: People sometimes do not understand our culture. For example, when we were celebrating Ramadan, we had to explain to people at our work a few times and sometimes they were still a bit rude about it. Back home, we would not have to explain Ramadan and others would be more understanding.

T: I can see why that would be difficult. Has Arjun said anything to you about how the other students treat him?

P: Yes, a few times. He has commented that sometimes the other kids make fun of his food and say things like "stinky" or "gross."

T: That is unacceptable, I will definitely talk to the class about this. I do not want them to think that it's okay to say that about other people's things. Please remind Arjun that he can always talk to me if these kinds of problems are happening. Or if he does talk to you about these sorts of things, please call me right away. Do you still have the phone number?

P: Yes, we do.

T: So, have you had a chance to look over the report card?

P: We did a bit. Arjun tried explaining some of it to us. But we were a little confused by some things on the card.

T: Okay, well I can look through it with you and we can look into the parts that you didn't understand.

P: Can you explain the guide to Alberta Studies section? Is a two passing?

T: So, a two means that the student is doing the minimum to be at grade level. So technically they are passing, but there is definitely lots of room to grow and improve. We ideally would like to see students at three instead.

P: Alright, so why has he gotten worse in the areas of citizenship and personal development? He didn't used to have twos and now he has a three where he had a four. Should we be worried?

T: I think we should be cautious at this point. Arjun has been a lot less involved in the class culture and hasn't been working well with others lately. But after our conversation earlier, I am wondering if the other students are the cause of this because they aren't being particularly nice to Arjun?

P: That makes sense, is there anything we can do to help?

T: Again, I will also talk to the class and to Arjun, but I want him to know that I am here for him. That kind of behavior is not tolerated, and we are a school community that celebrates everyone's diversity! Please make sure he understands that he can always talk to me or any adult at the school if he is being bullied.

P: Thank- you, we will definitely talk to him.

T: Did you have a chance to think about volunteering for our field trip? We would love to have you join.

P: Yes, I filled out my form and have it right here. What time would I need to be there by?

T: 8 am would be fine. Do you have any other questions?

P: Is there any other way we can get involved in the school?

T: Always! We have the parent council that helps with things like fundraising and school activities. We have a Casino Night fundraiser coming up soon, and we always need volunteers for that. That Casino Night in particular is to help pay for an updated playground, as ours is so outdated.

P: Okay, we will see if we can fit any of those into our schedule. When are parent council meetings?

T: The first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm – 8 pm. Feel free to pop in at our next meeting. Anything else?

P: I think we are good! Thank you!

T: Thank you! It was really nice seeing you!

Let's meet the teacher!

1. What is something that Canadians don't seem to understand?
2. What is the reason Arjun is being teased?
3. What is the difference between a two and a three in the Guide to Alberta studies?
4. What are the current volunteer opportunities?
5. Why are they raising money?
6. What else would you ask the teacher before leaving?