

Communicating student learning: Digital e-portfolios

Research continues to show the best way to support children's learning is to provide meaningful, timely and ongoing feedback as *they learn*. It's also well established that parent involvement and support promotes student success.

Our school district has been exploring more meaningful and informative ways to assess student learning, as well as share results with parents so they are more aware and better able to support their child. The initiative is called **Communicating Student Learning (CSL)**.

To this end, CSL includes the use of a new reporting platform called FreshGrade that provides an online portfolio for teachers to electronically share your child's learning with you in an ongoing and continuous manner throughout the school year. Students themselves can proudly share with parents an accomplishment or milestone at school when it happens, or at home after dinner.

Using a computer, tablet or smart phone, parents can also access their child's work and information about his or her progress at any time, rather than waiting for a report card to be issued. This allows you to open up discussions about what your child did at school on any day.

The information parents receive in "real time" include informal notes, pictures or links to video or audio. Initially, you will receive these updates via email. Later, you will have access to your child's password-protected learning portfolio and will be notified when new items are uploaded. Feedback will describe:

- your child's accomplishments,
- evidence of your child's learning, explorations and discoveries,
- areas of learning your child needs to focus more on and
- ways you can support your child's learning.

Parents will be able to comment on student progress and provide support and reinforcement for their child's learning and efforts. Your child's account remains with them year-to-year and is transferable to new schools in B.C. FreshGrade will replace paper reports for your child; he or she will receive a printable summary report at the end of the school year.

More information on FreshGrade, including videos can be found at www.freshgrade.com/ under the "Parent" tab.