

*School*  
**COMMUNITY  
NETWORK**

**Just Connect<sup>®</sup>**



# EDUCATION

Community Building Ideas



## Teacher and Parent Education

All schools provide in-service education for teachers, and many schools offer some type of parent education. School communities are concerned with teacher and parent education that is related to the goals and responsibilities of the school community. The school may include in its usual teacher and parent education programs certain speakers or workshops related to the school community goals. The school may also develop training programs of its own for use by teachers and parents.

Some schools develop their own teacher workshops around the *School Community Compact*, focusing on goals and responsibilities. Other schools plan speakers and workshops for teachers that address specific school community goals.

For parent education, schools also take a variety of approaches. In addition to “in-house” parent education programs, schools have utilized such programs as “Solid Foundation,” and the Home and School Institute’s “Mega-Skills” workshops.

### Teacher Education

#### Conflict Resolution

- ◆ Goal: Respect for Self and Others
- ✧ Contributing School: North Elementary, Sycamore, IL

A group of teachers attended a workshop on Conflict Resolution to learn procedures to set up such a program in the classroom.

#### Videos

- ◆ Goal: Reading
- ✧ Contributing School: Lawn Manor Primary Center, Oak Lawn, IL

The Andrea Butler Video Series was presented to teachers, as well as “Emergent Literacy” – a story writing video available from NAYCE.

#### Master Teaching Staff

- ◆ Goal: All
- ✧ Contributing School: Lawn Manor Primary Center, Oak Lawn, IL

The Master Teacher Staff Development Program was provided for teachers.

#### Cooperative Learning Strategies

- ◆ Goal: Respect for Self and Others
- ✧ Contributing School: Lawn Manor Primary Center, Oak Lawn, IL

An educator from a local college presented “Cooperative Learning Strategies” to the school staff.

### Blood-Borne Pathogens

- ◆ Goal: Healthy Mind and Body
- ✧ Contributing School: Lawn Manor Primary Center, Oak Lawn, IL

The county department of health presented teachers with information on “Blood-Borne Pathogens.”

### In-service on Understanding Differences

- ◆ Goal: Respect for Self and Others
- ✧ Contributing School: North Elementary, Sycamore, IL

The faculty attended an in-service on ways to teach respect and understanding differences (special needs, racial/ethnic) in others.

### Early Literacy

- ◆ Goal: Reading
- ✧ Contributing School: Alcott Elementary, Chicago, IL

The Early Literacy in-service course was offered to all primary grade teachers.

### Handicapping Conditions

- ◆ Goal: Respect for Self and Others
- ✧ Contributing School: Southeast Elementary, Sycamore, IL

Teachers participated in a program on handicapping conditions: definitions, criteria and modifications in the classroom.

### Parent Education

#### 1-2-3 Magic

- ◆ Goal: Respect for Self and Others
- ✧ Contributing School: Lawn Manor Primary Center, Oak Lawn, IL

1-2-3 Magic, presented by the district social worker, is a discipline technique to stop children’s inappropriate behavior and start appropriate behavior.

#### Early Childhood STEP

- ◆ Goal: Respect for Self and Others, Communication
- ✧ Contributing School: Lawn Manor Primary Center, Oak Lawn, IL

Early Childhood STEP (Systematic Training for Effective Parenting) met over seven weeks, offering information about child development, discipline and communication strategies, building self-esteem and more.

### Stress and Depression in Children

- ◆ Goal: Healthy Mind and Body

- ✧ Contributing School: Lawn Manor Primary Center, Oak Lawn, IL

“Stress and Depression in Children” was addressed by a child psychiatrist from a local hospital.

### Parent Support Group

- ◆ Goal: Healthy Mind and Body

- ✧ Contributing School: Lawn Manor Primary Center, Oak Lawn, IL

A monthly parent support group meets to discuss concerns of the parents. The district social worker leads the program.

### Reading at Home

- ◆ Goal: Reading

- ✧ Contributing School: Lawn Manor Primary Center, Oak Lawn, IL

A college teacher led a session on “Reading at Home” for parents.

### Helping Children Deal with Death

- ◆ Goal: Healthy Mind and Body

- ✧ Contributing School: Lawn Manor Primary Center, Oak Lawn, IL

The local hospice association presented “How to Help Your Child Deal with Death.”

### Videos

- ◆ Goals: Studying, Respect for Self and Others

- ✧ Contributing School: St. Pius X, Stickney, IL

Ongoing parental education efforts of St. Pius X include watching the “Where There’s a Will, there’s an A” and “Dare to Discipline” video series.

### Resolving Family Conflict

- ◆ Goal: Respect for Self and Others

- ✧ Contributing School: Lawn Manor Primary Center, Oak Lawn, IL

“Conflict Resolution in the Family” was presented by a local counseling agency.

### Parent Workshops

- ◆ Goal: Studying

- ✧ Contributing School: Alcott Elementary, Chicago, IL

Topics for Saturday morning parent workshops included building self-esteem in a child, homework, and successful parent-teacher interviews.



## Resources for Community Building Ideas

The following information is from *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships*, by Anne T. Henderson, Karen L. Mapp, Vivian R. Johnson, and Don Davies (p. 176).

### Help Families Be Actively Involved in Setting Goals for Their Children's Future

Kindergarten is not too early to start thinking about (and planning for) what a student will do after high school. Nearly all school districts have a myriad of special programs, magnet schools, and alternative schools. Many of these have themes such as the arts or science and technology. Within schools, there is a variety of programs and placements. These include gifted programs, "houses" or "teams" where a group of students is assigned to a specific group of teachers, schools within a school, and academic and career academies. Which one a student picks, or is assigned to, can have a major impact on that student's later options.

Waiting until high school to plan for college may be too late for many students. Unless they develop strong reading and math skills in elementary school, students probably won't be placed in high-level classes in middle school. Without those important middle school courses (such as first-year algebra and a foreign language), students will not qualify for the college prep program in high school. Many parents and students don't know this. Parents need to know whom they can work with to steer their children through this complicated system and choose the schools and programs that are the best fit.

When their children enter sixth grade, parents need to understand three things:

- Courses that are required for college admission

- What students should take each year to complete the requirements by the end of their senior year

- How to navigate the process of applying for college or other postsecondary education programs – and how to pay for it

Henderson, Anne T., Mapp, Karen L., Johnson, Vivian, R., & Davies, Don. (2007). *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships*. New York, NY: The New Press.



### More resources for Community Building Ideas

The following information is from *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships*, by Anne T. Henderson, Karen L. Mapp, Vivian R. Johnson, and Don Davies (p. 177).

### College Planning Nights for Parents and Students

At Glenmary High School in Alberta, Canada, a rural area far from any colleges, an action team of parents and teachers organized special events for students and families, by grade.

**Eleventh grade Career Portfolio Night.** In advance, students researched a career that interested them, interviewed a professional in that field, and created a portfolio and personal career path. At the event, students displayed their portfolios and made presentations to their families, fellow students, and teachers.

**Twelfth grade College Information Night.** In advance, school counselors met with each senior and showed them how to investigate careers and financial aid online. Students also got a form on graduation requirements. Counselors profiled a few careers, showing the entrance requirements, courses, and average grades needed. Then students and parents went to the computer lab to complete an interest and skills inventory, which suggested career options they could explore on the Internet.

Henderson, Anne T., Mapp, Karen L., Johnson, Vivian, R., & Davies, Don. (2007). *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships*. New York, NY: The New Press.



Contact Us  
to Just Connect®

[www.schoolcommunitynetwork.org](http://www.schoolcommunitynetwork.org)