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Parent Involvement News

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Region 9 Parent Fair in Wichita Falls, February 29
- Title I Parent Involvement Summit in Austin, Feb. 13-14
- Family and Community Engagement Seminar in Lubbock, March 1-2
- "Program Connections" training at Region 9 in April
- "School Support Team" training at Region 9 on May 7, 14, and 21
- "T.O.P." training at Region 9 on May 9-11

Involving Families of Older Students

Research and experience indicate that parent participation falls off in the upper grades. Secondary schools can reduce some common obstacles to family involvement and help parents cope with the challenges of adolescence. First, let your parents know they are important to your school. Place high expectations on your office staff and teachers to assist parents in a prompt and friendly fashion. Creating a welcome sign for parents in all the languages spoken by the families and students can go a long way in making parents feel welcome. Second, reach out to special groups of families to address their specific needs. For example, hold meetings for limited-English

parents with translators. Provide meetings for parents of students who want to attend college to discuss college op-



Encourage parents of all students to become involved!

tions and financial aid programs. Another idea is to have meetings to describe options available in vocational-technical and work-study programs and career planning. Third, aid your parents

in understanding the difficult curriculum their children are learning. Try offering workshops for parents in specific curriculum areas, such as math or reading, so they can help their children at home. Recruit a parent liaison to organize parent networks that supervise afternoon and/or evening homework sessions. And last, provide parent workshops to aid in understanding the needs of adolescents and their development. Hold "networking meetings" for parents to ask questions and share ideas on parenting issues. The more services we offer to our parents, the more they will come to know that we care about our students and their families.

Ideas to Involve Parents

Looking for ways to involve your parents? Here are some ideas to get you started.

- Open House
- Family Night—Science Night, Math Night, Tech Night, Game Night, etc.
- Volunteer Programs—Classroom, Library, etc.
- Online Surveys
- Student Planners/Agendas
- Father/Daughter Dance
- Donuts for Dad time
- Muffins for Mom time
- Parents or Grandparents luncheon or breakfast
- Monthly Brown Bag Lunches
- Parenting Classes
- Parent of the Year
- Parents as Guest Speakers
- Holiday Luncheons
- Monthly Coffee with Principal
- Community Pep Rallies, Programs, Walks
- English lessons for ESL Parents
- School Newsletters

Choose your Battles Carefully...



It's not easy being a parent!

Many times parents have a hard time discerning when to say yes and when to say no to their children, especially adolescents. Teens are often heard accusing their parents of "always saying no." Here are a few guidelines that you may want to share with your parents when they are faced with making those decisions.

- Is this a safety issue?
- Does the activity in question violate any laws, such as city curfews?
- Does the activity in question violate our family's morals or values, such as movies with profanity?
- Does the activity in question violate our family rules, such as guests in the house without a parent present?
- If there are negative consequences, *who* will experience the consequences?
- Is this the *parents'* problem or the *teen's* problem, such as how to spend allowance?
- Will it matter in five years?

The answers to these questions may help parents "choose their battles" more carefully.

"Two or more people actively engaged in pursuit of a definite purpose with a positive mental attitude, constitute an unbeatable force."

Napoleon Hill

Encourage your district's parents to attend this conference!



Two Wolves

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two "wolves" inside us all. One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and

An Inspirational Story for You

ego. The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith." The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf wins?" The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."



Region 9 Parent Fair coming in February!

Region 9 will be hosting their first Parent Fair for the region's parents on February 29! Flyers will soon be sent out to districts to publicize this exciting event. Keynote speaker, Esmeralda Rodriguez, is the director of the Grand Prairie Parent Center. She will be speaking to parents about being involved in their children's education. Many

breakout sessions will be available for parents to attend. Participants will be able to choose three different breakout sessions according to their interests and needs. Topics for these sessions will include citizenship, nutrition, discipline, literacy ideas for the home, STAAR information, math tips, bullying prevention, local healthcare options, and much more. Please help us promote this great educational opportunity for parents! Details will follow soon!