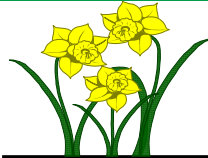




Parent Communication Network

Edina PCN *newsletter*



Edina Parent Communication Network
Quarterly Newsletter

March 2006

PCN Calendar

Having The Hard Talks

March 20, 2006
Creek Valley
Elementary

Transition to Kindergarten

April 24, 2006
Edina Community
Center

Community Events

Edina Unplugged March 13th

Town Hall Forum **Reduce the Use:** **Edina's Underage** **Drinking** March 27th

Kids and Personal **Safety** April 17th

Dr Chap Clark **HURT** April 21, 2006

Raising **Responsible Kids** May 15th

PCN National Speaker Forum Highlights **Boys and Girls Learn Differently Michael Gurian**

Most of us instinctively have stereotypical ideas about differences in boys and girls' behavior. Boys seem to be always moving, they avoid eye contact and are overall more aggressive and competitive than girls. Girls on the other hand can sit still longer, can communicate easily and have deeper friendship bonds. Until recently, these differences were mostly unscientific observations. However recent brain research allows social scientists like Michael Gurian to draw from this neuroscientific data and find justification for many of these behaviors. When we understand that these differences are genetically "hard-wired" rather than just a product of our environment, we open our eyes to better ways of parenting and teaching our children so we can "nurture their nature" and help them learn successfully.

Gender differences in the brain fall onto a wide spectrum and each person has more or less "maleness" or "femaleness" depending on individual chemistry. In general, the female brain has highly developed verbal centers and linkage to emotive material resulting in more tactile and audio sensitivity. The Male brain has highly developed spatial/mechanical centers resulting in strong abstract reasoning skills.

There are advantages and liabilities for each of these differences. For example, most parts of a female brain are continuously active during the day, while parts of the male brain can go into a rest-state several times a day. This can be an asset for females as they can concentrate longer or multi-task more easily, but this can also be a liability as females might continue to analyze a conversation or situation long after it has occurred, leading to emotional anxiety. Males receive the benefit of giving their mind a rest and being able to let go of emotional troubles more easily, but the liability is that when their brains are not stimulated sufficiently they go into a rest-state. When this happens in school, for example, they miss out on important learning.

In the classroom, teachers can adapt their lessons to keep boys "awake." By allowing movement, competitive learning groups and project-based learning, the classroom experience becomes more meaningful for boys. Since girls' verbal skills are strong, allowing them to talk or write about their learning, will improve their learning experience. Schools can also take a more active role in developing emotional processing in children as this has a great impact on learning. We are fortunate that the Edina school district acknowledges the value of this research and is willing to make changes in the classroom to help our students learn more effectively.

Visit our website at www.edinapcn.com

Upcoming PCN Forums

Having The Hard Talks: Communication Strategies for Parents of Adolescents

*With parent educator,
Wendy Paulson*

March 20, 2006

7-9 p.m.

Creek Valley Elementary
Free Admission

Adolescence is a confusing time for both teens and parents. Volatile emotions and misunderstandings are common when parents and teens try to talk; especially on some difficult topics such as sex and dating, alcohol and drug use, social situations—peer pressure at parties, driving with friends and suicide. What are some strategies to get these conversations started? Why are these conversations important? What are some warning signs to look for when risky behavior is happening with our teens?

Transition to Kindergarten

April 24, 2006

7-9 p.m.

Edina Community Center
Free Admission

Kindergarten is an exciting and sometimes scary and nerve-wracking time for children and their parents. Learn how you can help your child get off to a great start in elementary school!

We have invited three knowledgeable educators to help you and your child prepare for that big transition to “real” school. Nan Nelson, ECFE teacher, and Becky Danielson, parent, author and former teacher along with Michele Rock, a Concord Kindergarten teacher will be returning as speakers this year.

The speakers will discuss the social and academic development of kindergartners and how they spend their time at school. This forum will NOT focus on whether your child is ready for kindergarten. However, parents who are undecided might gain insight to aid in making that important decision.

Bring your questions and join us for a fun and informative session!

Community Events

Reduce the Use: Edina's Underage Drinking

March 27, 2006

7:00 PM

Edina City Hall
Council Chambers

Teens, parents, grandparents, community leaders are all invited. The agenda will focus on the “nuts and bolts” of reducing underage alcohol use. Do you know how insurance companies support efforts to provide an alcohol free home for kids? Do you know the legal ramifications of underage alcohol use? Do you want to hear what other teens say helps them to remain alcohol free? In addition learn more about two new community efforts to support teens and parents .

This forum is sponsored by Edina Chemical Health Partners and Tri-City Partners for Healthy Youth and Communities.

Dr Chap Clark Speaking on his book *HURT*

April 21, 2006

7:00 PM

Colonial Church

For anyone who is concerned about teens, join Dr Chap Clark as he provides a glimpse into the world of our teenagers. Today's teens are on the run like never before—some say over-indulged, others say highly stressed out. But anyone who gets near a teen realizes that things are different than even a few years ago. Adults need to sit up and take notice, before it is too late for our kids. For more information call:

Dave Sheldon 952-925-2711
or e-mail: dsheldon@colonialchurch.org



Edina Family Center

Two Spring Parenting Classes Offered by the Edina Family Center

(To register call 952-848-3980)

Kids and Personal Safety: Learn how to teach personal safety skills in a developmentally appropriate way without scaring kids. Teaching safety skills is a process begun around age three and continues throughout childhood. Jean Breitenbucher L.P.'s emphasis will be on preparing, not scaring kids. **Monday, April 17, 2006 7:00-9:00PM**

Raising Responsible Kids: How can you promote a sense of cooperation in your household? What role do chores and age-appropriate expectations have in laying the foundation for your child's future successes? Join parent educator and former kindergarten teacher, Deb Benkovich, as she discusses how pre-schoolers can help around the house, do more for themselves and how using natural and logical consequences can help children develop important decision-making skills.

Monday, May 15, 2006 7:00-9:00PM

BEYOND ECFE for 2006-2007

School Age Parenting Classes Offered by the Edina Family Center

If you have a child in elementary, middle or high school, you may be wondering where to find answers to your "new" parenting concerns. The Edina Family Center is proud to be offering classes to meet your needs. These Beyond ECFE classes will meet once a month either at the Edina Community Center or an Edina School. A licensed parent educator will guide the discussion and provide information based on research and knowledge of child development and family education. Group discussion allows parents to share their challenges, experiences and wisdom.

PE0005-1 & 2 Parenting Your Kindergartner

Thurs 10 – 11:30 AM or 1-2:30 PM Sept 14, Oct 12, Nov 16, Dec 14, Jan 18, Feb 15, Mar 15, Apr 19

PE67-1 Parenting the 1st – 2nd Grader

Tues 1 – 2:30 PM Sept 19, Oct 17, Dec 5, Jan 9, Feb 13, Mar 13, Apr 10, May 8

PE811-1 Parenting the 3rd – 5th Grader

Tues 1 – 2:30 PM Teacher Sept 26, Oct 24, Nov 28, Jan 16, Feb 20, Mar 20, Apr 24, May 15

PE1115-1 Parenting the 6th – 9th Grader South View

Wed 12 – 1:30 PM Sept 20, Oct 25, Nov 29, Jan 10, Feb 7, Mar 7, Apr 11, May 16

PE1115-2 Parenting the 6th – 9th Grader Valley View

Thurs 11:30 – 1:00 PM Sept 21, Oct 26, Nov 30, Jan 11, Feb 8, Mar 8, Apr 12, May 17

PE1618-1 Parenting Your High Schooler

Wed 11:30 – 1:00 PM Sept 13, Oct 11, Nov 8, Dec 6, Jan 17, Feb 14, Mar 14, Apr 18

Thank You to our National Speaker Donors

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Chipotle Mexican Grille , Edina	Lund's Market , Edina
Colonial Church of Edina	Perkins Family Restaurant and Bakery , Edina
Cub Foods Southdale	Starbucks Coffee , Gus Young Lane,
Davanni's Pizza , Edina	Hotel Soffitel , Bloomington
D Brian's Deli , Lincoln Dr., Edina	
Edina Public School : Mary Amriott-technology	
Fuddrucker's , Bloomington	

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Thanks to the PCN Board and Liaisons for their hard work and support this year!



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