



Parent Communication Network



# Edina PCN *ewsline*

Edina Parent Communication Network  
Quarterly Newsletter

Harvest Issue 2008

## *Save the Date!* *Feb 2, 2009*

### **Rethinking Discipline: Fostering Your Child's Inner Motivation**

with Diane Gossen, M.Ed.

We are excited to host internationally-known author and speaker Diane Gossen, M.Ed., as our speaker for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual National Speaker Event.

Gossen challenges established notions of discipline. Instead of resorting to traditional methods of discipline, Gossen argues that parents should teach their children how to think about the kind of person they want to be. She contends that traditional discipline simply teaches children to please others instead of teaching them how to be a moral person.

Gossen will discuss children's underlying emotional needs and how they influence behavior. She will talk about how parents can teach children to develop internal motivation and self-control and why parents need to establish a system of family beliefs.

Diane Gossen has taught this style of discipline to parents and educators in the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia. Her work is well known by Edina educators, many of whom use her teachings in their classrooms.

**Tickets** go on sale November 1, 2008.

- Contact your school's PCN liaison
- Visit our website at [www.edinapcn.com](http://www.edinapcn.com).

Scholarship tickets are available through your school social worker.

## PCN Calendar

### **NATIONAL SPEAKER Rethinking Discipline: Fostering Your Child's Inner Motivation**

*Diane Gossen, M.Ed.*

Feb. 2, 2009, 7-9 PM

Edina Performing Arts Center, EHS

### **Teens and Chemical Use Prevention**

*Scott Washburn, M.A., L.A.D.C.*

Mar. 23, 2009, 7-9 PM

South View Middle School

### **Transition to Kindergarten**

*Panel of Experts*

Apr. 13, 2009, 7-9 PM

Edina Community Center

Room 350

### **Keeping Pace in an Online World**

*Erin Walsh, B.A.*

Apr. 20, 2009, 7-9 PM

Our Lady of Grace Church

To download these dates to your  
pc/mac/pda, go to [www.edinapcn.com](http://www.edinapcn.com)

## November 2008 Forum Recap

### Ensuring Success in a Global Society

Christine Schulze, B.A., J.D.

PCN held the second forum for the year, "Ensuring Success in a Global Society," at Creek Valley Elementary School. The speaker was Christine Schulze, the executive director of Concordia Language Villages and vice president for International Development of Concordia College. Ms. Schulze entertained the audience with a combination of informational games, interesting facts and advice about how we can embrace a plurality of visions to make the world a better place to live.

A popular part of the talk imagined the world as 100 people. Ms. Schulze began her presentation by showing a video from <http://www.miniature-earth.com>, which depicts the cultural and economic makeup of the world's population by shrinking the world to 100 people. If the total world population were 100, according to the scenario, 61 people would be Asian, 8 North American, 5 South American and Caribbean, 13 African, 12 European, and one would be from the South Pacific. Included in the statistics were some sobering facts: 13 of 100 people would be hungry or malnourished, 14 wouldn't be able to read and one would have HIV/AIDS.

Cultural understanding through language acquisition is critical to help solve world problems such as hunger and disease, as well as acid rain, climate change and global warming, all of which need to be analyzed across national borders. Further, we need to integrate capital and technology across the world to deal with the recent global economic crisis. Learning languages makes people better citizens which contribute to the world. Closer to home, business, national security and diplomacy, and school performance all benefit from language education.

Despite the clear need, the United States is the only developed country that doesn't have a comprehensive language program as a core component of education. An understanding of global languages is important for many reasons. Language instruction fosters an

understanding of identity. When a learner takes a new name in a language class, he or she absorbs a new personality with a new set of cultural values. This leads them to break the mold and be more open-minded, Ms. Schulze said.

Other benefits of language education, Ms. Schulze pointed out:

Language education often facilitates an understanding of place by incorporating information about the culture and history of other countries.

Stories from native speakers make a place come alive.

Language acquisition increases empathy, allowing people to make friends, to listen and hear what others are saying.

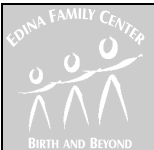
Travel makes people realize that everyone is alike.

Sharing languages leads to a feeling of interconnectedness with other cultures, which in turn, promotes a world vision of peace, justice and sustainability.

Ms. Schulze left the group with the following list of suggestions for enriching lives through cultural diversity:

1. Use your language.
2. Invite people who speak another language into your home.
3. Experience cultural events.
4. Prepare your children for educational experiences abroad.

In the words of Nelson Mandela, "If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart."



### Edina Family Center

Register on-line at [www.edinacommunityed.org/familycenter](http://www.edinacommunityed.org/familycenter)

Or call 952-848-3949 CEUs available

#### **New** Baby Class Fridays, 11 a.m.—12 pm

We have a new baby class designed for infants born late summer and early fall. Begins November 7th.

#### Dad's Class Tuesdays, 6:15—7:45 pm

We still have openings for dads and their 2 to 5 year old children.

**Openings still available**

#### Family Class Saturdays, 9-10:30 am, 8 sessions January 31—March 21, 2009

#### *Beyond ECFE* **School Age Parenting Classes**

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 offer classes to meet your needs.

**Beyond ECFE** classes will meet monthly or several times a year 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, experience and wisdom.

**Beyond the Classroom: Homework & Organizational Skills**  
*Megan Stone, M.Ed.*

How would you feel if on the way to a job interview you suddenly realized that you weren't sure exactly where the interview was supposed to take place, you were dressed too casually, and you'd forgotten your resume? According to Megan Stone of Stone Foundations of Learning, that's the adult equivalent of what many students feel at some point during their school day.

In a lively and informative presentation, Ms. Stone discussed why 80 percent of children feel unprepared for what is expected of them at school and how parents can help. Kids often have difficulty taking ownership of their own work in school because they're used to having most things done for them by mom and dad. From a very young age, children try to do things for themselves, and in many cases, parents take away that sense of accomplishment by doing those very things for them. And as they get older, the desire to see them succeed makes it hard for parents to let kids fail.

During his/her school years, a child's job is being a student. Parents need to give back ownership of that job while making sure that kids have the tools they need to be successful. In order to help children feel in control of their world, parents need to let them make their own decisions and find safe ways to allow them to fail. These character-building ownership experiences will help them to know they are responsible for their own success.

Practical ways to give them ownership include not always answering their questions but encouraging them to think through solutions themselves, as well as biting your tongue when they do a job that you're not totally satisfied with (i.e. not re-making the less than perfectly made bed). It's also helpful to use language that conveys the message about who's responsible, such as saying, "Whose job is that?" when asked to fix a child's problem like driving forgotten homework to school.

To ensure that students succeed when they take ownership, it's very important for parents to teach the tools needed to succeed in school. These tools include having two weeks of their planner filled in including evening activities which could conflict with getting homework done; checking Edline themselves, which allows *them* to convey important information -- both bad and good -- to parents; running a homework meeting with their parents weekly to provide a consistent time for discussion and to develop communication and listening skills; having a folder system at school and at home to keep track of their work; and finishing homework whenever possible on the day it is assigned.

As Ms. Stone said, "With ownership comes pride and with pride comes hard work." For children to try their hardest and thus do their best in school they need to have both ownership of their work and the tools that will help them succeed.

**You Can Make a Difference -- A Parent's Role in the Organizational Life of Your Child**

From Megan Stone, President of Stone Foundations of Learning, Inc. [www.stonefoundations.net](http://www.stonefoundations.net)

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**"With ownership comes pride and with pride comes hard work."**

Children need to feel some control and ownership in their world or they will not do well. If they are able to make some decisions then they gain ownership. It is our role as parents to give them the tools to take on this ownership. I often use the analogy of a tool box. I see children as having empty tool boxes and it is our job to fill their tool boxes *and* show them how to use each tool. With this knowledge they can make their own creations and take pride in their work.

**What Happens?**

At an early age children start saying, "I can do it myself." We often take this away from them and inadvertently take

away their ownership. We need to remember what our job is and what our children's job is. When we become exhausted -- it means we have taken over their job.

**How to Help?**

1. Ask yourself the question, "Does my child have the tools to accomplish the task at hand?" (Most of the time he/she will not).
2. Find ways for your child to take ownership over his/her life.
3. Allow your child opportunities to fail safely. It is not okay for our children to always be happy—they need to fail, try again and learn from their mistakes safely.

BEYOND ECFE  
**Book Studies**



*My Child is a Pleasure*  
**Diane Gossen**

with Laurie Denn M. A. and  
 Kris Shelley M.A.

**December 8, 2008 &  
 January 12, 2009**

**6:00-8:00 PM ECC Room 350**  
 Child care will be available for a small fee

This is an EFC Advisory Council  
 Sponsored **FREE** Event

NOTE: Ms. Gossen will be the National  
 Speaker for PCN on February 2, 2009  
 Join us to discuss her book and then  
 join the Edina Community to hear  
 her forum titled:  
**Rethinking Discipline—Fostering Your  
 Child's Inner Motivation**

Register on-line at :  
[www.edinacommunityed.org/familycenter](http://www.edinacommunityed.org/familycenter)  
 or call 952-848-3949



Edina Family Center is a Community Education Service of Edina Public Schools

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 Stacy Thiele 612-928-9931

For general questions or feedback,  
 please contact:

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 PCN President  
 952-924-4153  
 Email: [contact@edinapcn.com](mailto:contact@edinapcn.com)