

CPPS-Parent Leadership/Empowerment Conference  
October 22, 2011  
WORKSHOP CHOICES

All workshops presented in English unless noted in another language. Interpreters available for all workshops.

**First Choice: 9:35 am to 10:50 am**

**Understanding the School System and How to Help Your Child be Successful:** Students perform better when their families are engaged in their education. This workshop will provide parents with information on the education system, their rights and responsibilities, how to prepare for parent-teacher conferences and identify essential issues related to their own children's education. Participants will have the opportunity to ideas and strategies to create meaningful partnerships with teachers and school to support their student's learning experiences and academic achievement. This workshop continues through both workshops; you may attend one or both tracks.

**Presented in Spanish,** Delia Palomeque, OR Parental Information and Resource Center,

**Presented in Somali,** Abdi Jamac, Family Engagement Coordinator, PPS

**Presented in Chinese,** Victor Leo, International Dynamics Counseling and Social Services

**Presented in Vietnamese,** Huy Hoang, Family Engagement Coordinator, PPS

**Presented in Russian,** Olga Filanova, ESL Dept Community Agent, PPS

**Presented in English,** Will Fuller, CPPS, First Workshop only

**Opportunities at a Community College:** The workshop will provide information on the differences between a Community College and a university, reasons why students attend a Community College and how they pay for their education (financial aid and scholarships) it is possible! Resource materials will be distributed. **Presented in Spanish** David Martinez, Outreach and Orientation Coordinator, PCC

**Using Real Talk {About Race, Class & Culture} To Promote Strong Academics:** In order for "All" students to achieve their highest potential, parents, school staff and students need to engage in courageous dialogue about "root causes, alienation, racism, poverty, power, privilege and resistance." This takes knowledge, skill, and courage...and healing! Through the use of activities and protocols, come strengthen your ability to engage in and stay in the "real talk" necessary to create a school environment and supports for your child that promote high academic achievement for all. Presented by Keisha Edwards, Oregon PIRC

**BEYOND the IEP: Advocating for students with disabilities:** SEPTAP (Special Education PTA of Portland) advocates on behalf of children with disabilities in their school communities. Come share ideas and concerns and learn what we are doing. Presented by Jen Wentzien, Stephanie Hunter

**Understanding Adolescent Brains:** What is going on in the Teen Brain? Learn about 1) Brain Basics; 2) Productive Communication Tools; 3) Risk Taking and Hormones; 4) Navigation Technology and your Teen Presented by Amy Ruona-Banister, PPS

**Advocating For Your Child at School:** This workshop will give you information about how to advocate and communicate effectively and work in partnership with school staff and administrators regarding your child's academic, behavioral and emotional well-being. Presented by Hanif Fazal, Step Up

**Internet Safety with our Kids:** This workshop will offer tips to parents on how to protect their children while on the internet and taking part in social media sites. Kids have lots of opportunity for socializing online, but they come with risk. Parents can help reduce these risks by helping young people make safe, responsible decisions. Presented by Althea Cullen, Office of the Attorney General, Oregon Dept. of Justice

**Getting Your Child to Think About College:** Find out more about the Future Connect project—from competitions that make thinking about college enticing, to financial aid and scholarship workshops, to how your child can get in on the Future Connect Scholarship, and all of the advantages that come along with it. Presented by Kali Ladd, Josh Laurie, Maggie Williams, Tabitha Boschetti, Marie Manuel, Lauren Norlund Future Connect, City of Portland

**Community Resources for Living on a Limited Budget:** The current economic recession has put a “hit” on almost everyone’s household budget. How will you be able to manage with fewer work hours, less income or unemployment? The first step is accessing resources that can help you keep more money in your family budget. This workshop will include information on state and federal tax benefit programs, free tax assistance and community based financial education resources for managing on a limited or reduced budget. Handouts and materials will be provided to all participants. Presented by Janet Hawkins-Community Action Coordinator, Multnomah County, CCFC

**Play it Forward (Pre-school and Elementary Age):** Play is so important to the learning mind! Come get tangible tools (games, attention-getters, transitions and conflict resolution techniques) that can be used in daily interactions with your child. This fun workshop explores the philosophy behind the ‘power of play’. Be ready to play in this workshop. Presented by Tara Doherty, Playworks Portland

**Making a Smooth Transition-Middle to High:** Leaving Middle School and beginning High School can be a challenging experience for any family. This interactive workshop focuses on how to navigate this important milestone successfully. Focus: 1. how to prepare for this transition while in middle school, 2. the actual transition from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade, 3. starting strong in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Families will leave with concrete tips and tools for this important rite of passage. Presented by Robin Eisenbach, Step Up

**The Schools Our Children Deserve: What effective schools look like and what is preventing us from having them.** If you could create the school of your dreams for the children in your neighborhood, what would it look like? Attendees will leave with a sense of how ‘corporate reforms’ are threatening public education and harming our students, and you will learn ways our public schools can best serve the needs of all Oregon children. Action steps that can be taken to help make this a reality will be explored. Presented by Susan Barrett and panel, Oregon Save Our Schools

**An Amazing Panel Talks about School Funding:** How we fund our schools, both locally and at the state level are critical for our kids and on every parent’s list of concerns. Don’t just read about it in the papers or online, come dialogue with the leaders who are struggling with this important issue. Doug Wells, CPPS, facilitates the panel: Parkrose Superintendent Karen Gray, David Douglas school board member Annette Mattson, Or. Representative Lew Frederick, Portland Public School Board member Trudy Sargent and Parkrose School Board Member Jamie Woods.

**Second Choice 11:00 am to 12:15 pm**

**Families Learning Together:** To be successful in school our children will need strong literacy skills. They will need to develop their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Through hands-on activities, participants will pick up ideas and strategies to effectively support their children’s literacy at home and school. This

workshop will build upon the child's cultural and linguistic background and honor the role of their culture and native language in literacy learning.

**Presented in Spanish**, Teresa Rule, Migrant Education, PPS, Kenia Prost-Hughart, Parent Facilitator

**Presented in Vietnamese**, To be determined, Parent Facilitators

**Presented in Somali**, Najima Omar, Halimo Sharif, Zahara Ahmed, Parent Facilitators

**Community Resources for Living on a Limited Budget:** The current economic recession has put a "hit" on almost everyone's household budget. How will you be able to manage with fewer work hours, less income or unemployment? The first step is accessing resources that can help you keep more money in your family budget. This workshop will include information on state and federal tax benefit programs, free tax assistance and community based financial education resources for managing on a limited or reduced budget. Handouts and materials will be provided to all participants.

**Presented in Spanish**, Yolanda Karp, Bi-Lingual Outreach Specialist, Multnomah County

**Presented in Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian, Somali** (request interpreter) Isaura Ascensio, Bi-Lingual Outreach Specialist, Multnomah County

**Preparing Our Children for Life:** Parents play a critical role in their children's lives. Together, parents and children can walk through the difficulties of the adolescence without painful or tragic consequences. During this workshop, I would like to challenge all parents to support their children under any circumstances and to not give up and no matter their education level or if they speak a language different than English. We will explore values, self-esteem, sexuality, and much more...**Presented in Spanish** by Carmen Ortiz, Latino Parent Educator, Northwest Family Services

**How to Help Your Child with Math:** Some practical ideas that will help at home with Math. The workshop will include some fun activities and a discussion about helping your child with their homework. Presented by Rick Barasch, experienced middle school and community college math teacher.

**Stories of Success-African American Profiles:** This workshop will examine the characteristics of Black youth and families whose stories are not often told. It will also address common misperceptions and provide information and resources to families who are striving to help their children achieve personal and academic success. Presented by Reiko Williams, Director of Family/Parent Engagement, PPS

**Is Your Child Safe at the Mall? Human Trafficking-The Hard Truth:** You will gain the sense of urgency to dialogue with your child about sexual exploitation and boundaries. This is a growing problem and is affecting children of a surprising early age in all parts of the city. Presented by Rhonda Davis, P.O.W.E.R. Foundation

**College on the Horizon: Preparing Your Child for Their Future:** It's not too early to begin having conversations with your child about college and career. This session provides tips and strategies from cradle through career. Please come with your questions and concerns about post-secondary education. Presented by Melanie Dixon, PSU

**Guiding Good Choices: Parents of 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** This session focuses on building strong bonds between parent and child, identifying risk and protective factors, setting clear guidelines, establishing fair consequences,

household meetings and refusal skills. It also addresses ways to manage anger and other strong emotions. Presented by Joan Marquis, PPS

**Understanding Adolescent Brains:** What is going on in the Teen Brain? Learn about 1) Brain Basics; 2) Productive Communication Tools; 3) Risk Taking and Hormones; 4) Navigation Technology and your Teen. Presented by Amy Ruona-Banister, PPS

**Parents as Critical Partners in Preventing Bullying and Harassment in Schools:** Participants will: 1) Become aware of the meaning of bullying and harassment; 2) Become knowledgeable of the serious consequences of bullying and harassment on children and families; 3) Acquire information and strategies to use at home to assist schools to deal with problems of bullying and harassment. Presented by Moses Wambalaba, Equity Program, Education Northwest

**Do you have a child, age's birth to 5 years old?** Come learn about their stages of development, some of the 'typical' and 'not so typical' behaviors that infants, toddlers and preschool aged children present. There are resources in the community to support your questions, concerns and how that process works. Presented by Kristi Byfield, Multnomah ESD's Multnomah Early Childhood Program Supervisor, Roberto Rivera, 211 Early Childhood Liaison

**The Governor's Vision for Education in Oregon:** How legislation passed in 2011 has set the stage for a new era of funding and governing public education in Oregon. What this will mean for students, educators, and parents in Oregon. Presented by Ben Cannon, Education Policy Advisor to Governor John Kitzhaber

**Portland Public School buildings are in crisis—a listening session and dialogue about what parents think:** Supt. Carole Smith and members of the PPS School Board want to hear your feedback on the bond measure that failed last May and hear your ideas about where to go from here. PPS parent leader Sarah Granger will talk about a grassroots effort that is forming in response to the facilities crisis. Come learn about this effort and how your voices can join to make a difference. Presented by Sarah Granger, PPS parent leader, PPS Superintendent Carole Smith and board members.

**Engaging Diverse Families as Partners in Student Learning:** During this hands-on session we will 1) explore the latest research on family engagement; 2) share our successes and dilemmas related to authentically engaging ALL parents as partners in learning; and 3) exchange best practices that support real parent voice and leadership. Presented by Keisha Edwards, Oregon PIRC

**Tools for making school discipline less painful:** School discipline proceedings-formal and informal-against your children will be less intimidating when you are empowered with advocacy tools, basic legal information on parent' and students' rights and the duties owed by the school. Presented by Whitney Hill, JD. Youth, Rights and Justice—Attorneys at Law

Please make sure that you have registered for the 2011 Parent Leadership Conference! <http://www.eppsportland.org/plc>

You can choose which workshops you'd like to attend here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dG9qVnV6MmZ5Qk9YeWRSMkllclhNa2c6MQ>