

Meeting Today's Parent Needs to Create Lasting Partnerships

Strategies to Reduce Risks of Unproductive Relationships and
Capitalize on Opportunities to Satisfy Parent Desires

Important Takeaways from Yesterday's Session



2

Customer Profile: Today's Independent School Parents

Generational Trends



More
Transactional



More **Anxious**



Less **Trusting**



Practice **Intensive
Parenting**

Consequences for Misalignments with Today's Parents' Expectations

Increased Expenditure of Resources

- ▶ More time, energy invested to address parent concerns
- ▶ School leadership, faculty, staff bandwidth reduced

School Reputation Threatened

- ▶ Negative PR generated by disgruntled parents on social media, in press
- ▶ Controversy disruptive to parents' faith in school



Schools' Locus of Control

Better managing the tensions that exist between schools and parents

Meet Today's Parent Needs to Create Lasting Partnerships

3



Key Attributes of Today's Parents

- Less Trusting
- More Anxious
- Practice Intensive Parenting
- More Transactional

Reduce Risk and Capitalize on Opportunities

1

Use Parent Education to Build Trust



1. Comprehensive Parent Education Curriculum
2. Ongoing Virtual Education Series

2

Assess Parent Concerns Through Surveying



3. Proactive Parent Feedback Survey

3

Fulfill Intensive Parents' Desire for Student Perspective



4. Student-Centered Fishbowl Discussion
5. Perspective-Sharing Senior Workshop

4

Connect Parents Through Dedicated Communities



6. Relationship-Building Parent Dinner
7. Parent Edutainment Offerings
8. Mindfulness Parent Support Group
9. Engagement Preference Survey

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Parent Education Now Expected as Standard

“There’s a desperate need from parents for parent education...And **they want information about how to educate and raise their children,** whereas before they would say, ‘Oh well, the school is going to take care of everything. That's why I send my kids to there and pay tuition.’ **But now they want to send their kids here and they themselves also want to be educated.”**

Head of School, Co-ed JK-12, Northeast

Schools Still Offer Ad-Hoc Parent Education

Common Offerings for Parent Programming



Occasional events with logistical information related to **school-specific programming**



Sporadic **external speakers**, who present on subject-matter expertise



Exception: Regular offerings for **college counseling** – process to expect and details of school support

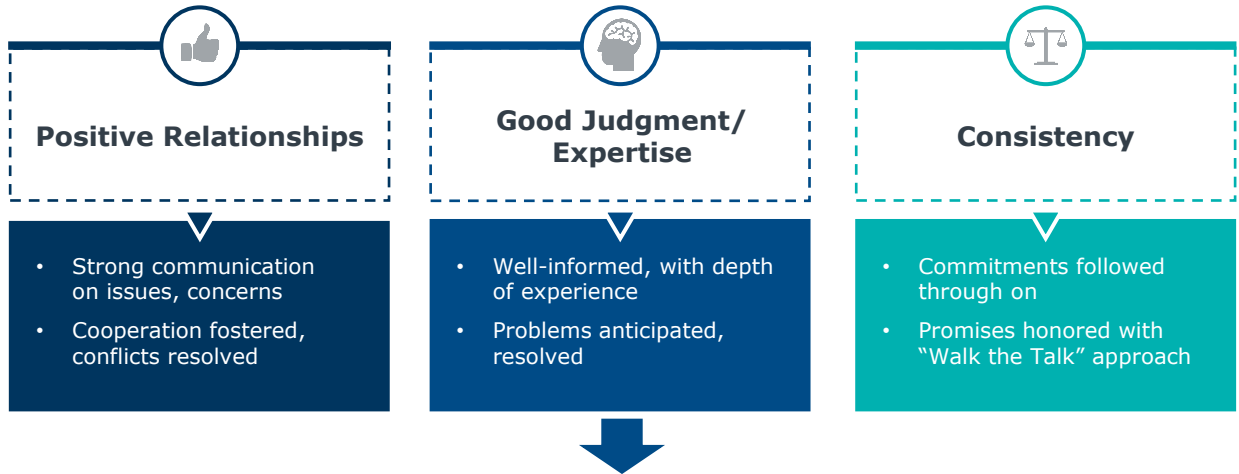
Negative Parent Outcomes

- Parents question how school handles new or difficult topics
- Parents left to own conclusions about effectiveness of school's approach

Build Trust with Intentional Parent Education

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Research on Trust Shows Need to Demonstrate Judgement, Expertise



Intentional parent education programming:



Demonstrates expertise



Addresses potential concerns



Builds trust in school decisions

Keys Elements of Effective Parent Education Programming

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Varied Content, Representation

Wide-ranging expertise shows knowledge across school departments, constituents



Regular Cadence of Offerings

Consistent programming creates expectation of reliable parent education



Branded Program

Branded parent education programming conveys intentionality, continuity



Clear Philosophy

Proactively provided information clarifies school's approach, particularly on tough topics

Establish Expertise with a Comprehensive Curriculum

Overview: John Burroughs School's Parent Education Program



Programming Offered across Departments

- 10 parent events/year offered by various departments, administrators, volunteers
- Organized by director of DEI; director of counseling; grade-level principals; and/or director of parent programming



Events Diverse by Design

- Programming ranges widely in content:
- Parenting topics (e.g., establishing boundaries)
 - Faculty-led sessions (e.g., lectures, book club)
 - Issue-specific programming (e.g., student health and wellness topics)
 - Parent, student panels (e.g., personal experience transitioning genders)
 - DEI events (e.g., history of local immigration)



Programs Marketed to Promote Participation

- Expectation set for at least one parent to attend each event
- Programming marketed to convey topic urgency, relevance for parents
- Events often yield 50-120 parents in attendance



Result: Parents view school as expert in addressing a myriad of issues related to student academics, development, child-rearing

Parent Education: A Lever to Build Parent Buy-In

“The truth is, a lot of the parent programming we do for us. We do a ton of work with our students and with our faculty, and it gets undone when students go home...[Parents] are coming from a great place, but they’re just repeating what they were taught 30 years ago and not reading all this new stuff. So, we try to offer programming that brings parents up to speed on the same issues that their kids are learning about. **Parent education brings them on board; it makes us a better community and a better school.”**

— Andy Abbott
Head of School, John Burroughs School

Continuously Engage Parents with Ongoing, Virtual Education

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Trinity-Pawling School

Pride Perspectives Webinar Series a Consistent, Reliable Source of Information:



Designed to engage parents during pandemic as part of school-wide effort to prevent attrition, increase fundraising



Held consistently, with 1-2 webinars featured per month



Topics surfaced during weekly administrative meetings to inform parents, reduce concerns

Extra Sessions Scheduled as Needed to Inform, Secure Parent Trust

Example:

- *Anticipating parent anxiety over a curriculum change, administrators hosted webinar on new "Wintersession" to inform parents of its academic benefits*
- *Webinar answered parent questions, reinforced trust in school's academic approach*

Sample Topics Featured: Spring 2020 to Spring 2021

- Q&A with School Leaders
- Coping Tips with the Dean of Counseling
- Educating Boys in the 21st Century: The Future of Boys' Education
- Pride Athletics
- Current Trends in College Counseling
- Wintersession at Trinity-Pawling
- A Bridge to the Future: Reopening Campus

Enhance Accessibility with Intentional Branding, Video Archive

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HOME > OUR SCHOOL > PRIDE PERSPECTIVES WEBINAR SERIES

Pride Perspectives Webinar Series



CONVERSATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY

Pride Perspectives is Trinity-Pawling's series of interactive webinars featuring key members of the school community. Launched in the spring of 2020, the series keeps the Trinity-Pawling community near and far connected, and highlights the many advantages of a Trinity-Pawling education. Join hosts Headmaster Bill Taylor and Director of Admission Jeff Beck along with Trinity-Pawling faculty, as the *Pride Perspectives* series continues throughout the year. Onward!

UPCOMING WEBINARS • FALL 2021

- ▶ OCTOBER 13, 2021 • THE INSTITUTES FOR ACTIVE LEARNING & SATURDAY PROGRAMMING
- ▶ OCTOBER 27, 2021 • TRADITION + INNOVATION = TRINITY-PAWLING'S DISTINCTION
- ▶ NOVEMBER 10, 2021 • WINTERSESSION AT TRINITY-PAWLING
- ▶ DECEMBER 1, 2021 • THE ADVANTAGE OF THE PRACTICUM & COLLEGE COUNSELING



Trinity-Pawling School

Brand programming to send message of intentionality, continuity

Archive videos to provide continuous access to content at parent convenience



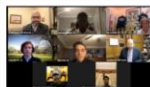
Young Alumni Career Panel
February 3, 2021

Time to hear from fellow young alumni who will share details about their careers in a variety of industries.



Educating Boys in the 21st Century: The Future of Boys' Education
January 27, 2021

Trinity-Pawling is constantly reimagining what's possible in boys' education. Our faculty and staff are adapting and creating new and dynamic programs and pedagogies based on how modern boys learn and grow. Join our educators and students for a conversation spotlighting our transformational results!



Virtual Open House: The Trinity-Pawling Experience
January 13, 2021

We have the programs and the people who will help you achieve a passion, find your purpose, and reach your potential. Join our student leaders for a conversation about learning in a new world — at Trinity-Pawling!



Theater Arts at Trinity-Pawling
February 10, 2021

Join the Theater Department and a group of talented Trinity-Pawling alumni for a talk about the benefits of theater education! Featuring young alumni Jay Teneo '16, Nate Turner '18, Richard Bolding '20, and Solomon Reed '20.

Take Stock of Existing Parent Programming

Next Steps



Compile a list of all existing parent programming, including events held by each division, grade level, and offices, like Enrollment and Advancement



Categorize offerings by type to get a complete picture of topics covered; identify gaps where additional topics should be offered



Work with EAB to design a comprehensive parent education curriculum offered throughout the school year

Meet Today's Parent Needs to Create Lasting Partnerships

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Schools Wait Until It's Too Late to Address Parent Issues

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Current Approach Leads to Shortcomings in Relationship with the Majority

Schools Wait for Parent Concerns to Surface...

- Parent issues voiced early only from most vocal
- Majority is too busy, reluctant to surface issues

...Allowing Problems to Escalate

- Administrators miss chance to promptly address problems
- Escalated issues risk contributing to unproductive partnerships

Instead, Take Temperature of All Parents to Surface Issues Early

Utilize online surveys to identify, act upon parent challenges and areas for improvement



Key Steps to Assess, Address Parent Concerns



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Light-Lift for Parents

- Design survey or feedback form to be quick, easy to complete
- Send survey directly to parents' inbox, rather than on online portal or secondary site



Everyone Surveyed

- Send survey to all parents in community, adjusting content by grade or division



Timely Deployment

- Ensure regular cadence for soliciting feedback--quarterly is ideal
- Deploy additional surveys as needed to gauge response to controversies, crises



Results Utilized Intentionally

- Identify individual parent issues to address immediately
- Monitor trends to tackle through parent education events or formal communication

Proactively Surface Issues to Prevent Future Problems



The Pingry School's Weekly Family Feedback Form



Sent to all parents through weekly newsletter



Separate surveys administered for lower school and middle/upper school families



Responses ranged from 10-40 new replies each week



Administrators used data to proactively respond to parent concerns, identify problematic trends

Sample Questions

1. On a scale of 1 to 5, how satisfied are you with your child's **OVERALL EXPERIENCE** at Pingry Anywhere?

Very dissatisfied ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 Very Satisfied

2. Additional comments about your satisfaction with your child's **OVERALL EXPERIENCE**: _____

3. As best you can, respond to the following: My child is engaged.

Strongly Disagree ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 Strongly Agree

4. As best you can, respond to the following: My child is able to foster relationships with teachers.

Strongly Disagree ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 Strongly Agree

5. As best you can, respond to the following: My child able to navigate Google Classroom (including accessing links, coursework, assignments, etc.)

Strongly Disagree ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 Strongly Agree

Respond to Issues Early to Mitigate Parent Anxiety

Identify Items for Immediate Action



Leadership team reviews results, prioritizes items for immediate response

Track Problem Areas



Trending areas of concern identified, tracked each week

Share Noteworthy Successes



Triumphs gathered from data to share out broadly

Example: Quick Action Taken to Address Student Mental Health

- Parent feedback expressed concern over rising student stress, declining mental health
- School planned social activities (food trucks, ice cream socials) to increase student engagement with peers, counselors
- Positive student response reflected in feedback forms, student attendance

Conduct a Review of All Parent Surveys

Next Steps



Work with all divisions and departments to **compile a list of all surveys currently sent to parents and when**



Identify whether an existing survey could be altered to collect parent feedback or a new one is needed



Work with EAB to design your own parent feedback survey to administer quarterly

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Build Trust with Intentional Parent Education, Then...

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Varied Content, Representation

Wide-ranging expertise shows knowledge across school departments, constituents



Regular Cadence of Offerings

Consistent programming creates expectation of reliable parent education



Branded Program

Branded parent education programming conveys intentionality, continuity



Clear Philosophy

Proactively provided information clarifies school's approach, particularly on tough topics

...Meet Intensive Parents' Desire for Student Perspective

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Student Perspectives

Student-centered programming recognizes unique student voices, wants, needs

Teach Parents to Authentically “See” Their Children

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Raising Successful Children Requires 4S’s of Care...

Research shows receiving sensitive, supportive care as children is best predictor of adult success¹



Dr. Daniel J. Siegel and Dr. Tina Payne Bryson’s suggest using **4 S’s** to make children feel:

- Safe
- Seen
- Soothed
- Secure

...But Intensive Parents Rarely “See” Children



“In the world of hyper-parenting², the second S—“seen”—often seems to get left behind. We all know we should keep our kids safe and secure, and...soothe them when they’re upset. **But what about really seeing them?**”

Daniel J. Siegel, M.D. and Tina Payne Bryson, Ph.D.

Opportunity for Schools



Use Programming to Teach Parents to See Children by:

- 1 Hearing from students as unique individuals
- 2 Listening to their perspectives, vulnerabilities
- 3 Engaging in candid dialogue with students

Source: Siegel, Daniel J. and Tina Payne Bryson, “[Do You Really ‘See’ Your Child?](#)”, *The New York Times*, June 28, 2021; EAB interviews and analysis.

1) Defined as relational, social-emotional, and professional success

2) “Hyper-parenting” is another term for intensive parenting.

Key Steps to Planning Student-centered Programming

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Create a Safe Space for Vulnerability

- Facilitate events with trusted adults, like school counselors or advisors
- Separate parents from own children to allow for anonymity, promote openness



Plan Thoughtfully for Candid Conversations

- Set clear norms for listening, talking without judgment
- Structure parent-student dialogue with standard questions, which can be shared ahead of time
- Personalize session by allowing for participants to submit questions as appropriate



Actively Promote Participation

- Signal event importance by requiring student participation when possible
- Encourage parent attendance by scheduling for convenience
- Promote events through varied marketing channels, emphasizing importance of parent participation

“Fishbowl” Gives Parents Visibility into Student Experience



Fishbowl a Required Component of 9th Grade Curriculum

- ▶ All students participate in “Self and Community” course
- ▶ Learn about substance abuse, sexual health, other topics relevant to teens
- ▶ Participate in Fishbowl Activity on the adolescent brain, substance abuse and decision-making with parents, student advisors

Event Objectives

- 1 Educate parents on consequences of drug, alcohol abuse, and promote available school supports
- 2 Share candid parent and student perspectives, reflections on substance abuse during “fishbowl” discussion

“The purpose isn’t to find solutions, but to ask questions. Ultimately, **we want to bring everyone closer to being on the same page by giving parents the ability to see their own child** through the lens of the conversations students have with peers.”

Shelley Danser, Upper School Counselor, Durham Academy

Parents Taught to Empathize with Student Stress

Two-Part Event Deepens Parent Understanding of 9th Grade Experience

Part I: Educate Parents on Drug, Alcohol Abuse

- Parents attend 1-hour expert presentation on substance abuse, school supports and resources
- Students, parents write down questions to pose to each other in Part II

Allow participants to tailor discussion to own areas of curiosity



Part II: Discuss Substance Abuse with Peers

- Students divided into Advisory groups of 11, joined by 3-6 parents, and advisor
- *Round 1:* Advisor asks questions for parents to discuss while students listen; then parents listen to students respond to advisor prompts
- *Round 2:* Advisor poses pre-written questions from students, parents to facilitate candid discussions in each group

Exclude parents from advisory group with own child; instead, parents gain insight into child perspective from peers



Vet questions ahead of time to ensure appropriate content



Event Outcomes:



Parent feedback consistently positive



Parents appreciative of articulate student perspective

50%

Approximate percentage of parents attending each year

Parent-Child Tension Eased in School-Led Workshop

St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School Normalizes Feelings in Major Life Change



College Transition Workshop Overview

St. Stephen's +
St. Agnes School

Description: Annual spring event for seniors, parents to learn about normal developmental shifts, conflicts in transition to college

Goal: Teach parents to see child's vulnerabilities, find common ground around major life change

Outcomes:



Participants learn what to expect from life during first year of college



Parent, student hopes, fears articulated for life transition, and common themes identified



Vulnerability, gratitude expressed through personal notes written anonymously by parents, students



Appreciation for strong school community, robust support expressed by parents

SSSAS Workshop Bonds Parents to Students and School

Three Workshop Components Strengthen Parent-Student Relationship, Promote Gratitude for School Support

1

Parents “See” Children When Hopes, Fears Surfaced



SSSAS displays parents', seniors' hopes and fears for college to create a space for openness, vulnerability

2

Parent-Child Tension Eased by Identifying Shared Feelings



Workshop allows parents, children to see eye-to-eye despite normal tension in transition to college

3

Personal Notes Foster Warmth, Gratitude



Reading of parent, student notes fosters positive sentiment for student journey, school support

Identify Current Gaps in Student Voice

Next Steps



Review existing parent programming to find opportunities to integrate student voice



Design new events centered around student perspective, particularly around topics where parents may not fully appreciate the student experience (e.g. student stress, gender identity)



Work with EAB to discuss how to design events that integrate student voice

Meet Today's Parent Needs to Create Lasting Partnerships

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Today's Parents Increasingly Isolated, Unaffiliated

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Declining (Real-Life) Social Networks



33%

Average decline in number of close adult relationships between 1985-2004



23%

Decline in Americans' membership in houses of worship between 1999-2020

Increasing Isolation

- More than **one-third of adults aged 45 and older** felt lonely in 2017
- **71% of Millennials** reported feeling lonely in 2020

While involvement in adult communities has dropped, **time parents spend with children has skyrocketed**

Source: Coleman, Joshua, "Parents Are Sacrificing Their Social Lives on the Altar of Intensive Parenting," *The Atlantic*, April 18, 2021; Jones, Jeffrey M., "U.S. Church Membership Falls Below Majority for First Time," *Gallup*, March 29, 2021; Hobson, Katherine, "Feeling Lonely? Too Much Time on Social Media May Be Why," *NPR*, March 6, 2017; "Loneliness in the Workplace," Cigna, 2020; EAB interviews and analysis.

Meet Parent Desire for Connection Through Community

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Foster Strong Parent Relationships, Affiliation with School



Satisfy Unmet Need for Community, Connection

Utilize existing independent school strengths to design offerings that build parent community

Increase Brand Evangelism in Parents

Increase positive word of mouth, counter transactional attitudes



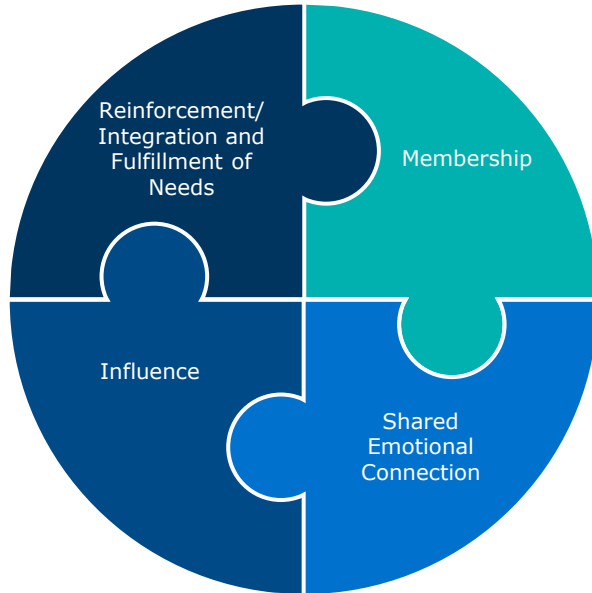
Build Lasting Parent Partnerships

Support ongoing advancement, enrollment efforts

Utilize Four Key Elements to Establish Sense of Community

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McMillian and Chavis Define Four Elements to Foster Community



● **Membership**

Feeling of belonging or sharing personal relatedness

● **Shared Emotional Connection**

Commitment, belief that members share history, common places, similar experiences

● **Influence**

Sense of mattering, making a difference to a group, and of group mattering to members

● **Reinforcement/Integration and Fulfillment of Needs**

Feeling that members' needs will be met by resources received through group membership

Source: McMillian, David W. and David Chavis, "[Sense of Community: A Definition and Theory](#)", *Journal of Community Psychology*, January 1986; EAB interviews and analysis.

Leverage Membership, Shared Emotion to Build Community

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Membership

- Boundaries
- Emotional Safety
- A Sense of Belonging and Identification
- Personal Investment
- A Common Symbol System



Shared Emotional Connection

- Positive Ways to Interact
- Important Events to Share
- Opportunities to Honor Members
- Opportunities to Invest in the Community
- Opportunities to Experience a Spiritual Bond Among Members



- ❖ Membership, shared emotional connection with students in abundant supply at independent schools
- ❖ Apply same principles to build parent communities

Source: McMillian, David W. and David Chavis, "[Sense of Community: A Definition and Theory](#)", *Journal of Community Psychology*, January 1986; EAB interviews and analysis.

Use Positive Sentiment to Secure Brand Evangelism

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Brand Evangelism

- ▶ Active behavioral and vocal support of the brand
- ▶ Consistent and repeated advocacy, akin to an unpaid spokesperson



Brand Trust

- Willingness to rely on brand to provide stated function
- Feeling of security that brand will meet customer expectations



Brand Sentiment

- Ability to elicit positive emotional response, general feeling of enjoyment over time
- Based on customers' whole experience, rather than single transaction

“This study found sentiment to be the strongest predictor of brand evangelism and both attitudinal and behavioral loyalty...Sentiment is different than the brand's reliability and trustworthiness, or the practical usage of the brand; **sentiment is the consumer's emotional connection to the brand.**”

Toni Ann Cestare and Iphita Ray

The Tribes We Lead: Understanding the Antecedents and Consequences of Brand Evangelism Within the Context of Social Communities

Peloton's Brand Evangelism Cultivates Loyalty



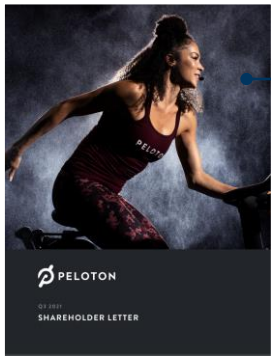
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Membership

- ▶ *Common symbol systems, including terminology, attire, branding*
- ▶ *Personal investment of time and money*
- ▶ *Sense of belonging and identification*

Shared Emotional Connection

- ▶ *High fives, here now, video chatting, leaderboard, tags, following*
- ▶ *High-quality interaction among members*
- ▶ *Milestone events to honor members*



Company Performance

- ▶ *Q3 total revenue grew by 141%*
- ▶ *Q3 12-month retention rate was 92%*
- ▶ *As of Q4, 12-month retention rate was 92%*

StartUp

Peloton proves the value of building community

Moving beyond the concept of brand loyalty has amazing benefits.

make it

THE JOURNAL

How Peloton exercise bikes became a \$4 billion fitness start-up with a cult following

Published Tue, Feb 10 2020 6:07 AM EST • Updated Tue, Feb 10 2020 6:01 PM EST



Tom Huddleston Jr.

SHARE

Break out of Exclusive Culture by Breaking Bread

Columbus Academy's Dinner of Great Conversations Designed to Bond



The Problem: An Exclusive Parent Culture

- Community dominated by parent "cliques"
- Relationships harder to form for "outsider" parents

The Solution: A Dinner Centered on Intimate Conversation

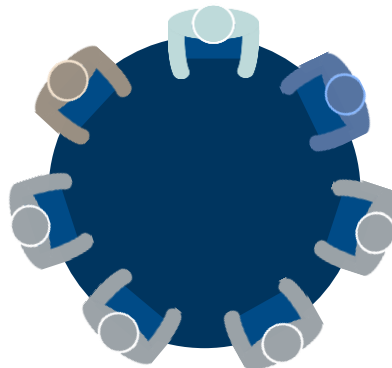
"The goal of the dinner is to bring the community together around a meal. We want to **get to know people beyond the surface, into the values and beliefs that allow us to be fully 'us.'**"

Pascal Losambe

*Assistant Head of School for Student Outreach,
Columbus Academy*

Structured conversations happen at tables with key stakeholders:

- Board Member
- Administrator
- Influential Parent
- Rotating Group of Parents



Build Parent Relationships with Personal Questions



During each course, questions get progressively more personal, substantive to deepen connections



Sample Dinner Questions:

Round One

- If you could have witnessed one event in history, what event would that be?
- What is your favorite moment of the day and why?

Round Two

- What can you learn from your biggest mistakes?
- What traditions would you most want to pass on to your children?

Round Three

- How has conflict led to change in your life?
- What creates prejudice and what can an individual do to overcome it?

Discussion Norms

1. *Listen to listen and ask questions to learn.*
2. *Allow for quiet.*
3. *Be crisp.*
4. *Share the table.*
5. *Speak from the "I perspective".*



Discussion norms ensure everyone feels safe, heard

Design Event to Ensure Access, Inclusion, and Impact



Event Board-hosted

Board served as event host, and helped to organize, promote dinner



Childcare Provided

Childcare provided onsite to allow parents with young children to attend



Nominal Fee Charged

Parents charged \$10 fee to encourage commitment, but ensure all families can attend



Feedback Solicited

Survey distributed after event to collect feedback on areas for improvement



Clear Expectations Set

Expectations placed at each table to ensure all voices heard, honored

Summer Courses Promote “Communities for Life”

“

“Community activities are such a large part of what Prep is...There is a hunger (among parents) to be engaged.”

Jim Picket, Former Head of School
Flintridge Preparatory School

”

“Summer @Prep” Parent and Alumni Summer Sessions (PASS)



Adult summer courses offered beginning ten years ago **engage parents**, alumni with Flintridge Prep **beyond the student experience**

PASS Created to Meet Parent Desire for Community, Ongoing Engagement

- Objective to encourage parents to be part of Prep community “for life,” not just when children enrolled
- Courses focus on engaging parents around shared interests to enjoy own Prep experience
- All current, newly-admitted parents encouraged to enroll

Create a Community Around Parent Interests

Entertaining Summer Courses Engaging for Parents, a Low-lift for Prep



Classes Selected to Appeal Widely

Variety of engaging courses offerings, such as:

- Great Books
- Art history
- Adult improv



Faculty Teach from Existing Course-load

Popular faculty asked to teach courses likely to attract participants



Accessible for Working Parents

- Classes meet weekly in the evening for four weeks
- Some opportunities provided for additional meet-ups



Expenses Offset by Revenue

Enrollment costs (\$175/person) cover program budget

“Once a parent enrolls, we’ve got them...They keep coming back.”

*Barrett Jamison, Dean of Student Life/Director of Summer School,
Flintridge Preparatory School*

Weekly Support Group Creates Reliable Community Network

Campbell Hall
PRINCIPAL

Campbell Hall's Parent Mindfulness Group

Parent Mindfulness Group Meetings

Tuesdays
9:30-10:45 AM
via Zoom

SEPTEMBER 14, 21, 28
OCTOBER 5, 12, 19, 26
NOVEMBER 2, 9, 30
DECEMBER 7, 14
JANUARY 4, 11, 18, 25
FEBRUARY 1, 8, 15, 22
MARCH 1, 8, 15, 22
APRIL 19, 26
MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
JUNE 7

If you are new to the Parent Mindfulness Group, please register by emailing @campbellhall.org. Returning parents do not need to register in advance.



Relevant Topics

- Group facilitates mindfulness meditation, parenting discussions
- Intimate setting builds close-knit parent network

Regular Cadence

- Group meets nearly every week throughout school year
- Establishes reliable pattern of support

Value Add

- Group a key cultural component of school that adds to positive reputation among parents

Support Group Instills Feeling of Belonging for Parents

“

"As a new member to the Campbell Hall community, the Parent Mindfulness Group has been **such an unexpected gift and an integral part of my Campbell Hall experience this past year**. The entire group has been so incredibly welcoming and supportive and with the help of Laurie Cousin's insight and guidance, I've acquired so many invaluable tools that have helped me to become a better parent, partner, friend, and overall human being. It truly is the gift that keeps on giving and I am so grateful...[for] **this wonderful community!**"

- 10th Grade Parent, Campbell Hall

”

Pinpoint Parent Engagement Preferences

Sample Questions From Survey

- How do you view the role of the current Parents Association? _____

- What type of communication would you like to see from the PALC?

Consistent emails like "New Parents Can Use"?
 Not Interested ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 Very Interested

Small group Zoom forums based on areas of interest?
 Not Interested ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 Very Interested

Parent Association Meetings with set agenda?
 Not Interested ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 Very Interested
- Would you be interested in the School offering periodic talks on areas of interest to Madeira parents on education, well-being, alumnae leaders?

 Not Interested ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 Very Interested

The Madeira School's Parent Association Survey



Sent via SurveyMonkey in parent newsletter, administered in spring



Survey garnered 60-75 responses from parents



Managed by Alumnae Office and PALC President



Feedback integrated into current offerings



Take Stock of Existing Parent Communities

Next Steps



Take stock of where parent communities exist on campus by speaking with the Parent Association or other groups



Identify which parent groups (e.g. by zip code, demographics, student age) are currently engaged on campus and which are not



Work with EAB to design ongoing activities or one-time events that deliberately establish parent communities

In the Coming Weeks



Connect with EAB to discuss how we can best support your work with today's independent school parents.



Keep and eye out for new upcoming resources to help you implement these practices at your institution.



Work with your teams to assess current offerings and identify key next steps.