

PPWN

PARENT TO PARENT WESTSIDE NETWORK

Fall 2006

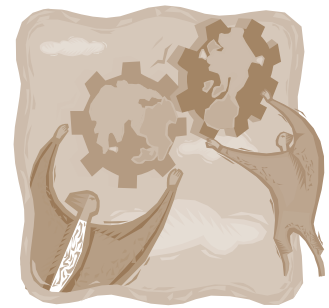
It's a new look & new name... but the same great info

You are used to seeing the quarterly Westlake Parent Connection newsletter. But with the creation of the Parent to Parent Westside Network, we decided, "Why keep all this helpful information to ourselves?"

So beginning with this issue, you will still receive all the timely, informative and critical articles you've grown to expect from the WPC, but even better because we are offering more comprehensive geographic coverage.

You will know when and where the next parenting programming is happening throughout the Westside. You'll now have a mechanism to reach out to parents in other communities. And best of all you are now part of a bigger and better collective parenting network where keeping our kids safe is on everyone's agenda.

As always, your comments and suggestions for future topics are always welcome contact us at:
ppwn@parent2parentnetwork.org



Together we make it all work better!



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The PPWN Mission and Vision

PPWN Mission

The Parent to Parent Westside Network is a non-profit group representing Westside communities of Cleveland, assembled to educate, communicate, and network with fellow parents about the tough issues confronting all school age youth.



PPWN Vision

To create a venue for communities (defined as Westside families, homes, schools, and places of worship) to discuss the tough issues that face our youth and seek solutions together.

And to give voice to the people who share this healthy vision

Embrace Your Child's Internet World: A Hands-On Workshop for Parents

This customized program designed by Jill Ricker with Westlake City Schools educators and technical support experts Renee Bailey, Kurt Thonnings, & Eric Baker includes two break-out sessions; a presentation and hands-on computer training.

Studies in the last five years show that kids do not go to their parents when they run into difficult situations on the internet, says Ricker. "This program addresses this issue and gives parents practical tools on how to keep the lines of communication open."

This free Westlake Parent Connection sponsored program teaches parents about the most popular kids' sites; how kids integrate the latest technologies – computer, cell, pictures, text, video & music; how to monitor and review sites visited; current computer language; where to go on the internet for help and support; how to positively communicate with kids about internet use and safety; and how to teach kids self-protecting and critical thinking skills.

"Every media source is focusing on internet safety right now, says Ricker. "No wonder our kids think we are 'freaking out'. We need to learn to take all of

this information, break it down into usable chunks, and teach our kids what they need to know to be safe, savvy and smart users of the internet.

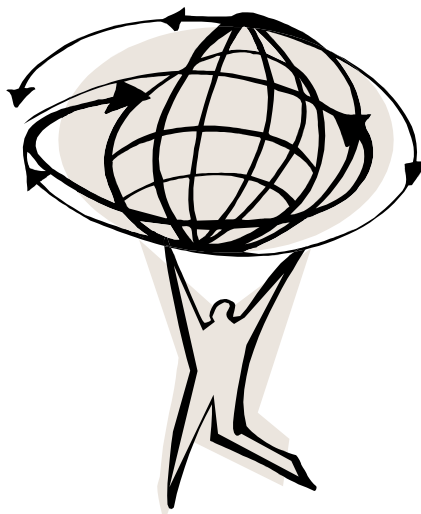
"Internet changes happen so quickly that our kids need to be prepared to handle what they confront when we can't be there. We don't send them off to school the first time without safety rules, nor do we hand over the car keys without instruction and training. We need to apply the same concept to the internet."

Embrace Your Child's Internet World is filled!

How long we have waited to say those words!

But don't worry—remember **our mission is to educate!** An overflow session is being considered—just email us and we will add your name to the list. Date and time will be announced shortly.

As always program handouts will be posted on both the PPWN and Westlake Parent Connection websites.



This program is filled but we are considering an overflow class—contact us if you are interested: parentcon@westlakeparentconnection.com

Wish to duplicate this program in your own community?

Contact the WPC for a program template that includes an instructional plan, handouts and trainer contact numbers.

Help us help you—Support the PPWN

Dollars raised to support the PPWN allow us to share communal efforts; finance nationally recognized speakers; expand our website coverage; and convene a Westside healthy choices symposium in 2007.

The PPWN is a 501(C)(3) tax-exempt organization.



Help Us Help You...Support the PPWN

A Word from PPWN President...

Dani Altieri Marinucci

As parents we have no guarantee that our children will travel safely through their pre-teen and teenage years. It is paralyzing to dwell on all the wrong turns they could take in their early lives.

We learn of their unhealthy choices from our neighbors, friends and the weekly newspapers. In this decade alone, tragedy has touched families in our communities too many times; suicide, traffic fatalities caused by alcohol and drug use, and accidental death by inhalants.

And still the risky behaviors continue.

When our children were babies, who among us would have driven in an automobile without first safely securing them in a car seat? Let them as toddlers play in the front yard unsupervised? Watched passively as

they approached a strange dog with arms outstretched?

Why then do we shy from protecting these same children from even more serious dangers just because they grew taller, voices deepened and attitudes emerged?

We still have that job called parenting. Among our many duties : we must define boundaries; express our expectations; and stand strong in our convictions. We owe this to our children.

The formation of the Parent to Parent Westside Network announces that there are adults willing to carry the job of parenting squarely on their shoulders and help make our communities safer for all children.

Nine Westside communities see the benefit

to sharing resources and human effort in our goal to educate, network and communicate with our parenting peers about the tough issues facing our kids. And surely more communities will come!

Today we collectively link arms and introduce the first of many opportunities for parents to erase the geographic boundaries between us.

Won't you please join your neighbors and step up to the challenge – one life lost is too high a price.

Knowledge is an imposing parenting tool.

With gratitude,

-Dani

October 23-31 is **RED RIBBON** Week

Wear your Red Badge proudly and have the courage to say no to drugs!

The Red Ribbon Campaign is the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the nation reaching millions of young people during Red Ribbon Week each year.

WHAT IS RED RIBBON WEEK?

It is an ideal way for people and communities to unite and take a visible stand against drugs. Show your personal commitment to a drug-free lifestyle through the symbol of the Red Ribbon, October 23 - 31st..

WHY?

The Red Ribbon Campaign was started when drug traffickers in Mexico City murdered Kiki Camarena, a DEA agent, in 1985. This began the continuing tradition and displaying Red Ribbons as a symbol of intolerance towards the use of drugs. The mission of the Red Ribbon Campaign is to present a unified and visible commitment toward the creation of a DRUG-FREE AMERICA.

WHO?

The National Family Partnership was created in 1980 by parents across America in response to the rising level of youth drug use. The mission of the National Family Partnership is "to lead and support our nation's families and communities to nurture the full potential of a healthy, drug-free youth." The National Family Partnership works to accom-

plish its mission through parent training, networking and sponsoring the National Red Ribbon Campaign.



***Parent to Parent Westside
Network***

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Executive Committee

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Lynda Appel, Vice President

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Julie Johnson, Secretary



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WWW.PARENT2PARENTNETWORK.ORG

Parent to Parent Westside Network

The Parent to Parent Westside Network (PPWN) is a coalition of parenting groups that have joined efforts to promote education, communication and networking among our parenting peers on the tough issues facing our children.

The PPWN provides individual and member organizations with: shared advertising of parenting programs, combined volunteer resources, larger audiences, and most importantly a stronger voice and influence in preventing risky youth behavior.

Our children's social, academic,

and athletic lives cross geographic boundaries, therefore we as parents must create our own "connections" with our peers in other cities. The network allows individual parents, schools or parenting groups to access quality parenting programming and critical information on the latest risky behavior facing our kids.

Members include individuals and schools from: Amherst, Avon, Bay Village, Fairview Park, Lakewood, North Olmsted, North Ridgeville, Rocky River and Westlake. Network organizations include the Amherst Parent Connection, Bay

Advocates, Community Challenge, Fairview Park Community Challenge Coalition, Rocky River Coalition for Youth Asset Development and Westlake Parent Connection.



Reaching Out!