

## PPWN connects with the Eastside!

Members of the PPWN and the Westlake Parent Connection met with our parenting peers from the eastside.

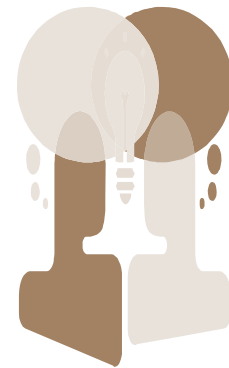
Linda Alexander of the Community Partnership for Youth [[www.cp4y.org](http://www.cp4y.org)] contacted the PPWN to discuss sharing efforts, programming

and other partnership opportunities.

The conversation was invigorating as we volleyed ideas across the table with parents representing Chagrin Falls, West Geauga and Kenston public schools as well as Hawken School.

We'll keep you in-

formed on this blossoming relationship and collaboration opportunities.



**Like minds meeting, sharing, collaborating—it is a beautiful thing! Won't you JOIN us?**

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## A Word from PPWN President...

**Dani Altieri Marinucci**

Our reach continues to grow. Since we've last “talked” the PPWN has welcomed the Amherst Parent Connection into the fold and they've started off with a bang. Already two programs in the works—see page 3 for complete listings.

In the last six months our website averaged nearly 1000 visitors a month—with the last two months totaling 3173 hits! Incredible.

It's no wonder that the International Survey Associates report that by a

margin of 3-to-1 American parents believe that preventative adolescent alcohol, drug and violence efforts are effective. This is the opinion of more than 17,000 parents, who site community coalitions as one of the success efforts.

And as far as how they rated themselves? Three out of four (71%) said they are most responsible for keeping young people healthy and safe.

Sooooo—pat yourself on the back just for reading this newsletter! Every

little bit helps and believe me, I know that some days are better than others.

Parenting is not a cakewalk but when we do the job well not just our family benefits but the community we live in is as well.

As always I am in awe of folks like Sandy Matkovich from the Amherst Parent Connection, who are willing to leave this world a better place than how they found it.

With gratitude— *Dani*

# DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

## “Yes, Your Teen is Crazy!”

Parent Seminar presented by the Author

### Dr. Michael Bradley

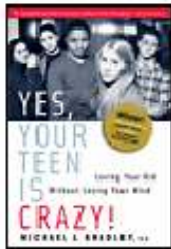
March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Fairview High School

4507 West 213, Auditorium

Admission: \$5.00



**All West Shore area parents are invited to attend!**

**YES, YOUR TEEN IS CRAZY!** This parent seminar, based on the book of the same name, is a 90-120 minute seminar with a 30 minute question and answer session. To help parents cope with the often crazy teen years, Dr. Bradley offers parents real world advice and strategies that they can use to achieve immediate results with their children. He takes you inside your teenager's brain and shows you why teens behave the way they do. Dr. Bradley identifies the challenges parents and adolescents face daily, and offers practical ideas on how to develop lines of communication, and connect more with your teen. Mostly audiences love his warm, humorous presentation style, and his ability to provide clear supportive answers to questions.

Dr. Michael Bradley is an author, teen psychologist and a nationally known charismatic speaker. His other books include The Heart and Soul of the Next Generation, and Yes, Your Parents are Crazy.

YES, YOUR TEEN IS CRAZY! will be available for purchase at the seminar.

Contact Fairview Park Community Challenge Coalition Coordinator, Karen Salamon at (440) 331-3838 for more information.

Fairview Park Community Challenge Coalition would like to acknowledge our generous sponsors who made this program possible:

Fairview Park PTA Council

Fairview High School

Rocky River PTAs

Parent to Parent Westside Network

The Friends of Fairview Park Library

The Fairview/Lutheran Foundation

Linda Bartolozzi, Rocky River City Council at Large

Rocky River Coalition for Youth Asset Development

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Send this complete registration form and your \$5.00 check made payable to:  
Community Challenge, 20525 Center Ridge Road, Suite #518, Rocky River 44116

NAME:		PHONE:
ADDRESS:	CITY:	ZIP:



Fairview Park's Community Challenge Coalition promotes smart choices among families to prevent the use and abuse of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs. Fairview Park Community Challenge Coalition is sponsored by a grant from the Fairview Lutheran Foundation.



Programs are free unless otherwise noted.  
All adults are welcome.  
Want your program listed on website? contact...

## It is all about the programming: And 2007 is packed full—take a look...

### **January 23, 7:00 – 8:30 PM**

#### ***Bullying, How Parents Can Help (Grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)***

Marlene Kurz, LPCC & Kris Jares LISW  
Lakewood Teen Health Center, 5644 Madison Avenue, Lakewood

Beach Education Center, Fireside Room,  
1101 Morewood Parkway, Rocky River

### **March 1, 7:00 – 8:30 PM**

#### ***Anxious Child***

Karen Tomoff, LPCC,CCDCIII  
Taft Elementary School, 13701 Lake Avenue,  
Lakewood

### **January 25, 7:00 – 8:30 PM**

#### ***Bullying ~ What, Why, & How for Parents (Grades Kdg. – 5th)***

Melissa Liberatore, LISW  
Taft Elementary School, 13701 Lake Ave,  
Lakewood

### **March 1, 2007 7-9:00 PM.**

#### ***Staying Strong As A Parent!***

DR. RAY GUARENDI, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist, Author, and Father of Ten (10)  
Amherst Jr. High School Cafetorium, Milan Avenue, Amherst

### **January 30, 9:30 – 11 AM**

#### ***Promote Healthy Eating Habits and Prevent Eating Disorders***

Lucene Wisniewski, PhD  
Beach Education Center, Fireside Room,  
1101 Morewood Parkway, Rocky River

### **March 12, 7PM**

#### ***A sensible approach to raising our children***

Jim Joyner, Drug and Alcohol Counselor  
Bay Village High School Cafeteria, 29230 Wolf Road, Bay Village

### **January 30, 7:00 – 8:30 PM**

#### ***Eating Disorders: Anorexia, Bulimia, Obesity***

Rene Althof, MSN; Suzanne Sandoval, CNP;  
Cindy Walsh, LISW  
Lakewood Teen Health Center, 15644 Madison Avenue, Lakewood

### **March 27, 9:30 – 11 AM**

#### ***Family Meeting Tutorial: What are They & How to Conduct One***

Karen Tomoff, LPCC.,CCDCIII  
Beach Education Center, Fireside Room,  
1101 Morewood Parkway, Rocky River

### **February 6, 2007 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM**

#### ***SAFE SCHOOLS A SHARED VISION: Working Together Keeping Children Safe***

Col. Jeffrey B. Miller, Pennsylvania State Police Commissioner will give a special briefing on the Amish School Shooting.  
LCCC Spitzer Conference Center

### **March 28, 7:00 – 9:00 PM**

#### ***"Yes, Your Teen is Crazy" Program based on this book.***

Author and Speaker: Michael Bradley, PhD.  
Fairview High School, Auditorium, 4507 West 213 Street, Fairview Park

### **February 12, 7 PM**

#### ***Depression and Suicide Prevention***

Eric Hipple, Former NFL Quarterback  
Bay Village High School Auditorium, 29230 Wolf Road, Bay Village

### **April 24, 9:30 – 11 AM**

#### ***Helicopter Parents: Learn When to Step Back ,Foster Independence***

Sally Rapp, LPCC  
Beach Education Center, Fireside Room,  
1101 Morewood Parkway, Rocky River

### **February 27, 7PM**

#### ***Healthy and Safe Teen Dating Practices***

Maureen Mizerak, Conflict Resolution Center,  
Westlake Porter Public Library, 24350 Center Ridge Road, Westlake

### **May 1, 7PM**

#### ***Parents Who Host Lose the Most: Campaign Against Underage Drinking***

Kevin Piazza, Ohio Department Of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Ohio Investigative Unit  
Westlake Porter Public Library, 24350 Center Ridge Road, Westlake

### **February 27, 9:30 – 11 AM**

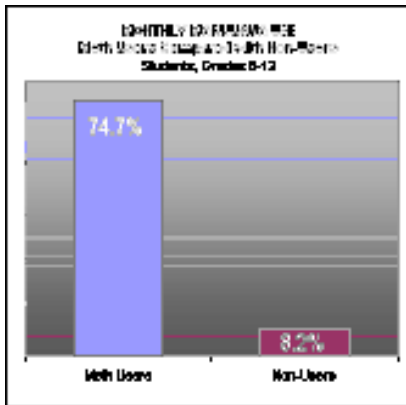
#### ***The Parents' Role in Keeping Their Kids Alcohol and Drug Free***

Jean Shurtleff, LSW, OCPSIII

## A Portrait of the Typical School-Age Meth User

The typical student user of methamphetamines is a 17-year old white male living with both parents, first tried meth at age 12.6 years, under performs in the classroom, and does not view the drug as harmful to the health, according to data collected by Pride Surveys from more than 3,000 self-reported users of meth in grades 6-12.

More than half (51.1%) find meth to be "very easy" to obtain. Another 12.5% said "fairly easy."



**Nearly a third said their parents would not find it wrong if they used marijuana (33.4%) or other illicit drugs (30.4%).**

Both parents of the meth user are likely to be fully employed; most graduated from high school and attended or graduated from college.

Three-fourths of the student meth users (77.3%) said their friends use marijuana sometimes, or more frequently, with more than half (51.9%) smoking pot "a lot."

Among all 101,141 student responses in the Pride Survey for Grades 6-12 National Summary 2006, 3.1% reported that they used meth at least once in the past year, while 2% reported monthly use. Data describing the typical meth user in this article represent a subset of 3,019 students in the National Summary who self-reported at least annual use of meth on the revised questionnaire.

When isolated in the subset, meth users constitute a hard-core group of drug users. For example, 74.7% of meth users reported monthly use of marijuana, compared to 8.2% among other students. Daily tobacco use was reported by 52.9% among meth users, compared with 6% in the rest of the student population. Daily alcohol use stood at 39.5%, versus 1.1% among non-users.

"These staggering numbers sadly summarize the meth menace facing America," said Doug Hall, senior vice-president of Pride Surveys.

Not surprisingly, the majority of meth users see little or no harm to their health by using meth. A full 40.8% said meth poses no harm to their health, while 18% said meth poses some harm.

By contrast, 83.6% of non-users believe meth is very harmful, and 10.3% see it is as harmful. Just 6.1% view the drug as presenting no harm or some harm.

Two in five of the meth-using students (43.3%) said they make good grades "often" or "a lot," against 70.8% of non-users.

Asked if their mother and father were employed, 56.5% said their mother is employed full-time, and 72.3% said their father has a full-time job. In addition, 74.9% said their mother and 70.8% said their father graduated from high school, attended college, or graduated from college.

The age breakdown for meth users was: 19+ years (6.4%); 18 years (9%); 17 years (18.1%); 16 years (16%); 15 years (15.9%); 14 years (13%); 13 years (10%); 12 years (6.1%); 11 years (2.8%); 10 and under years (2.6%).

Source: *PRIDE.org*

## AMHERST PARENT CONNECTION IS UP AND RUNNING!

The Amherst Parent Connection grew out of a personal passion that I have for communication, children, and education.

First and foremost, I'm a mother. I'm also an educator, a life-long learner, and a change agent.

What is a change agent? Well, it is simply someone that communicates information and resources conducive to effective change.

We live in a changing world. Our children have never been so exposed to so much information and influences, as in the current century in which we live. The information super-highway is an ever-flowing stream of data, constantly bombarding our youth with messages of both positive and negative impact. Our children are growing up faster and smarter than we did because of this.

But the challenge in all of this is how can we--parents, caregivers, and community members--stay

the course and remain the priority influence in raising healthy, respectable, responsible, and productive youth?

It's a tough dynamic, ever-changing and ever-challenging, but a core group of us are willing to take on the challenge.

I was first exposed to the Westlake Parent Connection's various topics, speakers, and presentations, back in 2003. I attended their events and felt so empowered by the information and resources, that I invited a few of my close parent friends to attend more events with me. We were all amazed at what we learned. I wanted to emulate the same program within our community.

I utilized what had already been created and was working so well in Westlake to springboard my efforts in Amherst.

The reaction to our Amherst Parent Connection, within the community, has been a very positive

one. The parents, school officials, and some community leaders have found it to be a positive addition to address the ever-growing challenge we face today with raising strong youth.

We are just starting out, only having established our group in October of 2006. However, I am confident that we will grow over time and more parents will realize the benefits in knowing that knowledge is power and that it truly does take a community to raise a child.

My eternal thanks and gratitude to the Westlake Parent Connection for starting up this grassroots initiative and so eloquently sharing all of their ideas and resources with the larger westside community.

**Sandy Matakovich**  
President,

**Amherst Parent Connection**

## New at Westlake Porter Library Lending Library

**NATIONAL BESTSELLER!**  
**ODD GIRL OUT: THE**  
**HIDDEN CULTURE OF**  
**AGGRESSION IN**  
**GIRLS—RACHEL**  
**SIMMONS**

There is little sugar but lots of spice in journalist Rachel Simmons's brave and brilliant book that skewers the stereotype of girls as the kinder, gentler gender. *Odd Girl Out* begins with the premise that girls are socialized to be sweet with a double bind: they must value friendships; but they must *not* express the anger that might destroy them. Lacking cultural permission to acknowledge conflict, girls develop what Simmons calls "a hidden culture of silent and indirect aggression."

The author, who visited 30 schools and talked to 300 girls, catalogues chilling and heart-breaking acts of aggression, including the silent treatment, note-passing, glaring, gossiping, ganging up, fashion police, and being nice in private/mean in public. She decodes the vocabulary of these sneak attacks, explaining, for example, three ways to parse the meaning of "I'm fat."

Simmons is a gifted writer who is skilled at describing destructive patterns and prescribing clear-cut strategies for parents, teachers, and girls to resist them. "The heart of resistance is truth telling," advises Simmons. She guides readers to nurture emo-

tional honesty in girls and to discover a language for public discussions of bullying. She offers innovative ideas for changing the dynamics of the classroom, sample dialogues for talking to daughters, and exercises for girls and their friends to explore and resolve messy feelings and conflicts head-on.

One intriguing chapter contrasts truth telling in white middle class, African-American, Latino, and working-class communities. *Odd Girl Out* is that rare book with the power to touch individual lives and transform the culture that constrains girls--and boys--from speaking the truth. --*Barbara Mackoff -- amazon.com review*

## 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



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

### Parent to Parent Westside Network

P.O. Box 45145

Westlake, Ohio 44145

#### Executive Committee

Dani Altieri Marinucci, President

Lynda Appel, Vice President

Laurie Comiskey, Treasurer

Julie Johnson, Secretary

[WWW.PARENT2PARENTNETWORK.ORG](http://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 in-

clude 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!**