



PARENTNET®

Sample End of Year Newsletter

Topics Include:

- Summary of year's meetings
- Thanking volunteers

(Feel free to copy and use any portion of this article, changing the names, dates, etc. to reflect the needs of your particular school.)

Strengthening Parenting Skills, Community for Challenging Times

Sponsored by our PTA, the ParentNet program provided a touchstone for participating parents in a year like no other. Sixteen evening meetings held during the 2004-05 school year gave parents of similar aged students the chance to connect through discussion of issues of immediate importance to them. Attendance matched last year's with one or both parents/guardians from approximately one quarter of our _____ families participating in one or more grade level meetings for their children.

The year was outstanding in terms of serving the needs of the community, with 3 special meetings taking place this year, one each in the 8th, 10th and 12th grades. Parents of 9th grade students came to the 8th grade meeting to address questions regarding the transition to upper school. Similarly, parents from _____ class of 2003 came to the 12th grade meeting to discuss college life for their now-freshman. The 10th grade meeting was about loss and grieving as students and parents mourned the loss of a classmate.

At other meetings, while topics were not as specifically focused, discussions reassured parents that they were not alone in their experiences or concerns. The meetings offered the opportunity to get to know other parents of children in their own child's grade, to know what the important issues in the grade level are, to exchange ideas with parents of their child's peers, and to hear diverse opinions in a safe and structured setting. For new parents, ParentNet meetings offered one way of joining the community that their child was now a part of. In this way, the program strengthened _____ parents as well as our community.

We would like to extend our enthusiastic appreciation to our dedicated parent volunteers who organized and staffed the grade level meetings this year: (List of names) We also wish to acknowledge the contributions of our faculty liaisons, (List names) who between them attended all the evening meetings, as well as (name), who gave our ParentNet webpages their new look and ease of use. Finally, we thank the parents who came to the meetings. Thank you, everyone, for your part in making this a successful year!