

Mission Statement

Parents United is a non-profit consortium of 27 special education departments that have joined to provide an educational community service. The mission of the group is to present timely and relevant information in a neutral forum for parents and professionals who work with children. The lectures and presentations offered each school year provide links, knowledge and networking to the community for the ultimate benefit of our students.

The Board

Parents United is funded and governed by the special education directors of the 27 member districts. An Executive Board is elected every 2 years and meets at least 4 times a year to determine programs, speakers and operational procedures under the adopted By-Laws.

Members of the current Executive Board are:

Tanya Fredrich PhD, President, Elmbrook
fredrict@elmbrookschoools.org

Anthony Strancke, Vice-President, Pewaukee
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Mary Cimbalnik, Secretary,
Retired Director of Special Education
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Gena Santharam, Treasurer, Richmond
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Maxine Towle PhD, Member-at-large, Mukwonago
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Colleen McHugh-Moore, Member-at-large, Greendale
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Cheri Sylla, Parent Representative, CESA 1
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Kara Roeming, Event Coordinator
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About Parents United . . .

Parents United is a coalition of 27 school districts in collaboration with educators, community resources and related service providers focused on empowering parents of children with disabilities to become effective advocates and informed decision-makers. This non-profit community-based organization provides regular informational workshops featuring experts presenting a wide range of topics relative to students with disabilities and their families. Parents United has grown exponentially since 2002-03 (it began with 4 districts) and now reaches over 1000 participants annually in a non-threatening, neutral forum that promotes communication and alleviates barriers between parents and their school districts.

Dennis Joyce, Special Education and Pupil Services Director,
Retired - Founder of Parents United

What attendees are saying . . .

Parents United has made "a big difference" in the lives of so many people, but especially for parents like me . . .

Rosa Zibell, Parent

As a School Psychologist in a school, I have found the Parent United offerings to be a valuable resource. The speakers are knowledgeable and pertinent for educators as well as parents and caregivers.

Carrie Gahan, School Psychologist
North Lake & Stone Bank Schools

I LOVE the topics and the speakers seem to be the best in the business. As my son grows I REALLY appreciate finding out what to watch for in the future and try be pro-active in helping him through school life.

Robin Stevens, Parent, Waukesha School District

When our daughter with special needs graduated from high school, her special needs and her need to grow with education did not. Parents United continues to help our daughter by providing us continuing parental education.

Steve & Gert, Parents

The Concordia-Parents United partnership has benefitted so many professionals, children and families in its first 5 years.

Dr. Wanda Routier, Director of Special Education
Graduate Programs, Concordia University Wisconsin

2018-2019 FREE PROGRAMS



Celebrating our 17th year!

For the school districts of

Arrowhead
East Troy
Elmbrook
Fox Point/
Bayside
Franklin
Greendale
Hamilton
Hartland/
Lakeside
Kettle Moraine

Lake Country
Menomonee
Falls
Mequon/
Thiensville
Merton
Mukwonago
Muskego/
Norway
New Berlin
North Lake

Oconomowoc
Pewaukee
Richmond
Shorewood
Stone Bank
Swallow
Waterford
Watertown
Waukesha
Wauwatosa

PROGRAM LOCATIONS

Ingleside Hotel (formerly Country Springs Hotel)
2810 Golf Road, Pewaukee, WI

Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC)
800 Main Street, Pewaukee, WI

To register for an event visit:

<http://parentsunitedwi.org/register-now/> or 262-345-7810

Website: parentsunitedwi.org

Twitter: @parentsunitedwi Facebook: ParentsUnitedWI

GRADUATE CREDIT AVAILABLE IN 1 OR 3 CREDIT OPTIONS

Since 2012-13, 33 professionals have earned 85 graduate credits applicable to DPI license renewal through the course offered jointly with Concordia University of WI.

Information will be available at all sessions.

For questions, please contact:

Mary Cimbalnik, Course Instructor mcimbalnik1@wi.rr.com
or Dr. Wanda Routier wanda.routier@cuw.edu

Day Programs

SCHOOL SAFETY

Presenters: Trisha Kilpin, School Social Worker; Steve Lodes, Principal; Colleen McHugh-Moore, Director of Pupil Services; Sue Williams, School Psychologist, Greendale School District
Wednesday, October 18, 2018 9 - 11:30 am

Ingleside Hotel (formerly Country Springs Hotel)

Maintaining a safe school environment includes prevention of a crisis, response during a crisis and response after a crisis. Staff from the Greendale School District will share information about strategies that they, and other school districts, implement in order to provide the safest learning environment possible. Families will also be provided recommendations as to how they can assist schools in safeguarding schools.

THE THREE DEADLY ACCOMMODATIONS

Presenter: Cindi Pichler, Independence First
Wednesday, November 7, 2018 9 - 11:30 am

Ingleside Hotel (formerly Country Springs Hotel)

Did you know that there are accommodations that are routinely offered in elementary, middle and high school that are not offered on the job?? These same accommodations may not be available, or may be offered in a different format, in college and technical schools. Will your student be ready for the differences?? What options are available if a student is using one of these "deadly" accommodations?? This workshop will discuss accommodations and expectations of the world beyond high school, and offer ideas for preparing students for higher education and employment.

NAMI ENDING THE SILENCE **AND** THRIVING AS PARENTS: PROTECTIVE FACTORS THAT PROMOTE STRONG FAMILIES

Presenter: NAMI Waukesha County & Dr. Bob DuBois, WCTC
Wednesday, December 5, 2018 9 am - 12:30 pm
Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC)

NAMI Ending the Silence is an engaging presentation that helps audience members learn about the warning signs of mental health conditions and what steps to take if you or a loved one are showing symptoms of a mental illness. Then, learn about the protective factors that promote strong families, including parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, social and emotional competence, and knowledge of parenting and child development. Explore specific skills and strategies you can master to build these strengths and help your family thrive in today's challenging world.

NOTE LOCATION & TIME!

A WALK THROUGH GUIDE TO GUARDIANSHIP AND DECISION-MAKING OPTIONS **AND** SPECIAL NEEDS FINANCIAL PLANNING

Presenters: Victoria L. Davis Davila, J.D. and Kathleen Obermeder ChSNC®, Financial Advisor

Wednesday, January 23, 2019 9 - 11:30 am

Ingleside Hotel (formerly Country Springs Hotel)

In this session, participants will learn about a spectrum of decision-making options available for people with disabilities. We will discuss informal supports, supported decision-making agreements, powers of attorney, and guardianship, and cover both personal/health care and financial/estate decisions. We will discuss the new 529 ABLE accounts and special needs trusts (SNTs), and learn how these planning tools interact with one another.

TRAUMA AND RESILIENCE IN SCHOOLS

Presenter: David Woodford, Student Assistance Coordinator, Pewaukee School District

Wednesday, February 6, 2019 9 - 11:30 am

Ingleside Hotel (formerly Country Springs Hotel)

The first half of this presentation will include a screening and facilitated discussion of the award winning documentary, Resilience - The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope. The second half will focus on how parents, schools, and communities can partner together to provide trauma informed education and care, and to build on resilience factors for youth.

ANXIETY IN CHILDREN/ADOLESCENTS

Presenter: Amanda Heins, Psy.D., Adolescent Center for OCD and Anxiety, Rogers Memorial Hospital

Wednesday, March 13, 2019 9 am - 12:30 pm

Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC)

In this presentation, we'll explore different types of anxiety children/adolescents may experience, as well as how anxiety can manifest in different settings such as home and school. From there, we'll discuss common pitfalls well-intending parents/school providers can fall into (also known as symptom accommodation) and effective strategies parents/school providers can use to support their child/student (including when to seek out professional support).

NOTE LOCATION & TIME!

THE FIVE SIMPLE PRINCIPLES TO ENGAGE EVERY FAMILY EXPLORED

Presenter: Dr. Steve Constantino

Wednesday, April 10, 2019 9 am - 3 pm

Ingleside Hotel (formerly Country Springs Hotel)

Engaging families in the academic lives of children is the goal of every school everywhere. However, the reality of successful progress toward this goal suggests much more work needs to be done. In this one-day workshop, Dr. Constantino will introduce The Five Simple Principles Model™ and share ideas and strategies on how any school can begin the process of engaging every family for student learning success!

NOTE TIME!

CARING FOR OTHERS WHEN YOUR WELL SEEMS DRY: KEEPING OUR HEARTS RESILIENT IN THE MIDST OF CHALLENGE

Presenter: Sue McKenzie, Director, Rogers InHealth

Wednesday, May 8, 2019 9 - 11:30 am

Ingleside Hotel (formerly Country Springs Hotel)

Teachers, therapists, EMTs, police officers and parents share the phenomenon of compassion fatigue. Learn how to nurture your ability to maintain compassion in the daily challenges and for the long road of parenting. Expectations, boundaries, and family culture will be explored. Perspectives of blame and shame will be challenged. And, realistic self-care practices that have proven positive outcomes will be shared.

Evening Programs

COLLABORATIVE & PROACTIVE SOLUTIONS

Presenter: Kimberly R. Hopkins, LICSW, Director of Outreach and Communications at Lives in the Balance

Thursday, September 13, 2018 6 - 8:30 pm

Ingleside Hotel (formerly Country Springs Hotel)

Collaborative & Proactive Solutions (CPS) is the empirically supported model Dr. Ross Greene describes in his influential books, The Explosive

Child, Lost at School, and the recently released books, Lost and Found and Raising Human Beings. The CPS model provides a compassionate understanding of kids' behavioral challenges and a non-adversarial, effective approach for reducing challenging behavior, improving communication, and repairing relationships. This model has been implemented in schools, inpatient units, residential facilities, treatment programs, and juvenile detention facilities. For those new to Dr. Greene's model, this workshop will provide an introduction to the basic themes. You will leave with an understanding of the underpinnings of Dr. Greene's Approach, along with practical assessment and intervention tools that can be brought back to and used in diverse settings.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: IEPs, 504 PLANS, AND RESOLVING CONFLICT

Presenter: Atty. Renae Aldana and Cheri Sylla, CESA 1
Tuesday, October 16, 2018 6 - 8:30 pm

Ingleside Hotel (formerly Country Springs Hotel)

In this session, we will review the different parts of the IEP, the difference between IEPs and 504s, and how conflict can be resolved between families and schools. A variety of strategies and resources will be shared.

HELPING OUR KIDS NAVIGATE THE STRONG PULL OF TECHNOLOGY

Presenter: Dr. Michael Mazius

Tuesday, November 13, 2018 6 - 7:30 pm

Ingleside Hotel

Clinical Psychologist, Dr. Michael Mazius, will present recent findings on the pros and cons of technology as it shapes us and our children. Further, Dr. Mazius will describe new, important and seemingly counterintuitive ways in which we can assist our children and adolescents in developing self-control, a keener sense of time, balance and good judgment when technology takes center stage. This approach, often referred to as, Co-Engagement, also sets the tone for a healthy, growing parent-child bond. Please come for a lively and informative conversation.

NOTE TIME!

PARENTING AND TEACHING WITH LOVE AND LOGIC

Presenter: Gena Santharam & Jody Calarco, Richmond School District

Tuesday, February 19, 2019 6 - 8:30 pm

Ingleside Hotel

Love and Logic is a philosophy of raising and teaching children which allows adults to be happier, empowered, and more skilled in the interactions with children. Love and Logic offers adults an alternative way to communicate with children. The Love and Logic techniques produce results because the techniques are simple, practical, and easy to learn. The concepts behind Love and Logic place a heavy emphasis on respect and dignity for children and at the same time allows parents to grasp simple approaches instead of learning difficult counseling procedures.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT & SIGNS OF CHILDHOOD DEPRESSION

Presenter: Dr. Dominique Sanchez, ProHealth Care

Tuesday, April 16, 2019 6 - 8:30 pm

Ingleside Hotel (formerly Country Springs Hotel)

Join Dr. Dominique Sanchez for a conversation about children. She will cover the social emotional development of children and discuss signs of childhood depression.