

Mission Statement

Parents United is a non-profit consortium of 25 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 25 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
straant@pewaukeeschoools.org

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
events@parentsunitedwi.org

About Parents United . . .

Parents United is a coalition of 25 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

2017-2018 FREE PROGRAMS



Celebrating our 16th year!

For the school districts of

Arrowhead
East Troy
Elmbrook
Franklin
Greendale
Hamilton
Hartland/Lakeside
Kettle Moraine
Lake Country

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

Richmond
Stone Bank
Swallow
Waterford
Watertown
Waukesha
Wauwatosa

Program Locations

Country Springs Hotel

2810 Golf Road, Pewaukee, WI

Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC)

800 Main Street, Pewaukee, WI

Concordia University - Wisconsin

12800 N Lake Shore Drive, Mequon, WI

Website: parentsunitedwi.org

Twitter: @parentsunitedwi Facebook: ParentsUnitedWI



Day Programs

SOCIAL MEDIA & SMART PHONES

Staci D. Steen, Certified Law Enforcement Instructor & Retired Milwaukee Police Officer

October 18, 2017 9-11:30am

Country Springs Hotel

This presentation covers what every parent and educator needs to know to protect children from serious criminal liability.

GROWTH MINDSET

Mark Scheiber, Director of Instruction, Glendale-River Hills School District

November 8, 2017 9-11:30 am

Country Springs Hotel

Participants in this presentation will learn how to promote the development of a growth mindset in themselves and in their child.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH ADHD

Patric Mattek, Ph.D.

December 5, 2017 9am-12:30 pm

WCTC

Dr. Patric Mattek, a clinical psychologist, will discuss the nature and neurobiology of the Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and our brain's executive functions. Youth with deficits in executive functioning can face significant challenges in school, socially, and at home. Dr. Mattek will discuss potential interventions and strategies for promoting success across those domains.

NOTE LOCATION & TIME!

HELPING TODAY'S YOUTH IN CRISIS

(including QPR Gatekeeper Training for Suicide Prevention)

Dr. Bob DuBois, PhD, Social Sciences Instructor, Waukesha County Technical College

January 24, 2018 9-11:30 am

Country Springs Hotel

In this presentation, we will review current research related to the prevalence and nature of mental illness and suicidal behavior among today's youth. Participants will learn how to recognize and help youth in crisis and will earn certification as QPR Gatekeepers for Suicide Prevention.

WHAT'S AHEAD IN SPECIAL ED?

Barbara A. Van Haren, PhD, Director, Special Education Team & Rebecca L. Collins, Director, Student Services/Prevention and Wellness Team, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

February 7, 2018 9-11:30 am

Country Springs Hotel

This presentation will provide a Department of Public Instruction Update on initiatives, including State Superintendent Dr. Evers' focus on equity, College and Career Ready IEPs, co-teaching, family engagement, transition, student mental health, after-school programming, bullying & suicide prevention, and AODA.

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT ANXIETY: IDENTIFICATION, INTERVENTION AND PARENT EDUCATION

NOTE LOCATION!

David M. Jacobi, Ph.D., Lead Psychologist: Child and Adolescent CBT Services, Rogers Memorial Hospital

March 14, 2018 9-11:30am

Concordia University

This talk will provide an overview of the most frequently occurring anxiety disorders. The basic principles of cognitive behavior therapy (CBT) will be reviewed and exposure-based interventions for anxiety disorders will be offered.

FOSTERING SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING AT HOME: STRATEGIES FOR FAMILIES

NOTE LOCATION & TIME!

James B. Vetter, Ed.M.

April 25, 2018 from 9am-12:30pm

WCTC

In this lively, interactive workshop, Boston-based social and emotional learning consultant Jim Vetter will guide participants in learning and practicing effective strategies and processes that parents and other adults at home can use to help children and adolescents successfully identify and manage emotions, understand the perspectives of others, build strong relationships, and make positive, responsible decisions.

NURTURING A POWERFUL LEARNER

Ryan Krohn, Director - The Institute for Personalized Learning

May 9, 2018 9-11:30am

Country Springs Hotel

In this session we will describe a student's typical day at a personalized learning school. Dr. Krohn will share first-hand experience of a student's day in a personalized learning setting, the design behind the learning experience, and the intentional implementation of personalized learning elements that are designed to develop learner agency.



Evening Programs

LIFE LONG READERS

Jennica Westfahl & Carrie Sgarlata - Literacy Coaches, Glendale River Hills School District

September 19, 2017 6-8:30 pm

Country Springs Hotel

In this workshop, parents of children with special needs will learn how to support and encourage their child to read at home by fostering daily reading habits that grow literacy, build vocabulary development and encourage a love of reading.

SOCIAL MEDIA & SMART PHONES

Staci D. Steen, Certified Law Enforcement Instructor & Retired Milwaukee Police Officer

November 14, 2017 6-8:30 pm

Country Springs Hotel

This presentation covers what every parent and educator needs to know to protect children from serious criminal liability.

WRITE ON

Jennica Westfahl & Carrie Sgarlata - Literacy Coaches, Glendale River Hills School District

February 20, 2018 6-8:30 pm

Country Springs Hotel

As children begin to learn how to write, they progress through a variety of developmental stages which are necessary to eventually become a competent, articulate writer. Parents will learn how to support their child at home through these stages.

TRAUMA INFORMED CARE AND SCHOOLS - WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD RESILIENCE

David Woodford, Student Assistance Coordinator, Pewaukee School District

April 17, 2018 6-8:30 pm

Country Springs Hotel

In this session, participants will learn how to define trauma and understand the prevalence and effects of it. Resilience and risk factors as well as current DPI and national initiatives will be discussed. The session will also cover collaboration with schools to create a trauma informed environment and using the child/parent/school partnership to build on resilience factors.

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 Cimbalk, Course Instructor mcimbalk1@wi.rr.com
or Dr. Wanda Routier wanda.routier@cuw.edu