

SCHOOL MATTERS

Talk it out with other parents

“Connecting With Your Teen,” a four-part parent education series that started on Oct. 13, is giving the Palo Alto community something very precious — a place where parents can talk to each other.

The first session, called “A Community Conversation,” was successful and showed just how much parents need to hear from each other.

“Parents were taking notes when other people were talking,” said panelist Gloria Moskowitz-Sweet.

“They looked at each other as local experts, a community of experts. For me that was the richest part.”

The series was made possible by a Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Grant received by

Parents Place, a division of Jewish Family and Children’s Services.



**PREEVA
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Parents Place worked very closely with Becky Beacom of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation and Sunny Dykwel and Terry Godfrey from the Palo Alto Council of PTAs.

The Council of PTAs sponsors parent education programs that explain everything from learning styles to the A-G courses needed by students for admission to University of California schools. A full program listing is on the Parent Education page of the council’s website at http://info.paloaltopta.org/parent_ed.shtml.

Parents at the Oct. 13 event used interactive polling equipment, called clickers, provided by Beacom.

“The clicker system is very illuminating because you know who is in the room,” she said. “We found that the majority of parents were thinking about their firstborn.”

Sheila Dubin will lead the next workshop in the series, titled “The Romance of Risk.”

“There is a sort of natural risk-taking that kids have to do developmentally. When do you become concerned as a parent? On Nov. 17 we will be talking about that,” Moskowitz-Sweet said.

The workshop begins at 7 p.m. in the SDC at 25 Churchill Ave.

The Midpeninsula Community Media Center has recorded “Connecting With Your Teen” and another program put on by the PTA Council, “41 Developmental Assets.”

The media center will be broadcasting the events on cable and on the Web. To see when the next broadcast is, type “community conversation” or “developmental assets” into the search window at www.communitymediacenter.net/program/.

According to Program Coordinator Rebecca Sanders, the two programs will run for the next couple of months.

“They will stay relevant for quite some time and are such good programs,” she said.

The center will also record and broadcast the Nov. 17 presentation.

School Matters is happy to hear your feedback. Please e-mail comments to schoolmatters@paloaltopta.org to reach Preeva Tramiel.

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**GLORIA MOSKOWITZ-SWEET,
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PARENT EDUCATION SERIES**