

**Pleasant Glade Community Café: Changing the Lives of Children & Families
through Conversations that Matter**

HARVEST

Date: March 11, 2011

Location: Pleasant Glade Elementary

What questions were used at this Café?

How was your school experience when you were a child and how does it compare to your child/children's today?

What are we doing to help our children meet their education goals?

How can we strengthen relationship/partnership between schools and families in order to improve our children's education?

What are you taking home from tonight's café?

- My comments, experiences, and suggestions were listened to
- Community Cafes are safe and respectful
- There is much we can do to spread the word about Cafes

What did you learn?

- That we all want our children to succeed but most important that the NTSD is very supportive and wanting to work with Latino parents
- That I can be involved in my kids education
- That by partnering with the schools we can make a difference in our kids education

Who do we want to share this with?

With all school staff, neighbors, friends, parents, etc.

How many participants? 6 Latino Mothers, 2 Latino Fathers, and 6 NTSD staff that included the Superintendent, Principal, ESL Teacher, and Admin. Staff.

What agencies or organizations were there? North Thurston School District, Pleasant Glade Staff and Family Support Center of South Sound.

How many children? 9 kids of various ages

Question #3 - How can we strengthen relationships between schools and families in order to improve their children's education?

- Listen to our children
- Parent support; attend their children classes so that they know what they're learning
- Parents who attend Community Cafes need to invite other parents and share information on future Community Café events
- Schools need to have more Community Cafes so that parents can connect and get to know each other; thus creating a larger community of work
- Parents like NTSD's willingness to involve parents in their schools
- Parents like to receive invitations and calls, including calls inviting them to events, in their primary language
- Parents like and need to have transportation available to the events and back home
- We all need to share about the Community Café process so that others make an effort to attend
- Parents feel comfortable with the format of the Community Cafes; it makes them feel safe to converse with others regarding their children's education in their language
- All participants liked the respect and equality that was demonstrated in the Community Café
- Reader boards should have messages in Spanish and other languages
- Parents who attended the CC need to invite other parents so that they can share their ideas, opinions or comments regarding their children's education or in regards to the schools that their children attend
- Be an example (in all aspects) to our children
- All public libraries need to be open later hours so that working parents can have access to computers and other resources
- Need to have an information packet for new parents coming into a school community; packet should include the name of the principal, magnetic card with the school bus number, school contact that knows Spanish so that we can call when our child will be absent from school, information on the PTA, a tour of the school for parents and children who are new in the school community, and a video for parents and students with all the necessary information so that they feel comfortable on their first visit
- Support for parents
- Provide challenges for students so that they can continue to improve and make an extra effort to work with students who are doing well but for some unforeseen reason their grades suddenly drop; it is critical that parents be made aware of this right away
- Take immediate action when student's grades are low
- Calls from teachers when a student has done something positive is great for both parents and students; make them feel proud
- Recognize teachers and parents who provide extra help in school and at home
- Support bilingual opportunities for both parents and students
- Sharing of information by teachers or talk about programs such as PBIS