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Founder and Organizer of P4P but I have since passed the baton!

Parenting For Peace Speakers Series
Friends School of Portland (Maine)

Parenting For Peace

Friends School of Portland's Parenting for Peace program developed as an outgrowth of our overall educational vision – to encourage inquiry, reflection and action and to strengthen our community of learners. In accordance with Quaker values and process, we encourage speakers

to share unique ideas and to offer queries that will promote discernment and dialogue among attendees.

Parenting for Peace represents FSP's commitment to engaging with our larger community, being of service as a learning community, and providing opportunities for inquiry and discernment for adults. Our topics are broadly about issues relevant to raising children in a peaceful, loving environment using the lens of Quaker values.



Series List:

2018 → Rebecca Traister, All the Rage

2017 → I'm Not Racist, Am I? Film and conversation

Spring 2016 → "Not Under My Roof" with Amy Schalet on Adolescent Sexuality and Communication / Education.

Fall 2015 → Dakota 38 with Filmmaker Silas Hagerty. This film follows the 330-mile journey of Sioux riders as they honor those killed in the largest mass execution in U.S. history.

Spring 2015 → SPEAKING THE TRUTH: The History, Necessity and Process of the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth & Reconciliation Commission ([Wabanaki REACH](#))

Fall 2015 → Envisioning a Sustainable Future: A Discussion with 3 Maine Thought- Leaders (with Quaker Education backgrounds).

Spring 2014 → In the Moment: Mindfulness for Families and Educators with Irene McHenry and Katie Byrne.

Fall 2014 → Peaceful Parenting in a Culture of Punishment: [A Maine Inside Out](#) Performance (youth serving time in detention) and a Community Conversation.

Spring 2013 → ALWAYS ON: Family Life in the Digital Age with Dr. Rob Williams, founder of the Action Coalition for Media Education

Fall 2013 → Beyond Princesses and Pirates: Navigating Gender and Sexuality Diversity in Childhood with author Jennifer Bryan.

Spring 2012 → Prep School Negro (Film)

Spring 2012 → Best Friends/Worst Enemies: Friendship Development, Popularity and Social Cruelty in Childhood, with renowned psychologist and author Dr. Michael Thompson

Fall 2011 → Books as Bridges: Children's books can be effective catalysts for conversations about race, particularly essential for communities with few opportunities for cross-racial relationships.

Spring 2011 → Alfie Kohn, Beyond Rewards and Punishments

Fall 2010 → Wild Play: Parenting Adventures in the Great Outdoors, with David Sobel

Spring 2010 → The Ecology of Hope with Sandra Steingraber Fall 2009 → "Detox Your Toy Box" A Panel Presentation

Spring 2009 → The Case for Make Believe with Susan Linn of a Campaign for a Commercial Free Childhood

Our model was as follows (but sometimes varies)

Fall — smaller program, using local resources or a film (held at FSP)

Spring — national speaker or commissioned program (often held off-site in a larger venue)

3:30 - 5:00 Educator's workshop with the intention of developing stronger professional learning communities and collegial connections among educators AND to provide professional development for our own teachers.

5:00- 6:30 Break and networking supper. We provide an informal feast (we have occasionally had businesses donate food but largely rely on a parent who provides catering services). This is an opportunity for teachers to mingle and continuing conversations and began with the hope that participants would then stay for the public talk.

7-8:30 or 9 Lecture (or workshop), Free and Open to the Public. We try to encourage a book signing if appropriate, and "tabling" by partner organizations to encourage increased engagement.

Inquiry — we provide a lot of resources to prime curiosity and learning as part of our publicity and to encourage participants to understand the topic at hand in a variety of ways.

Reflection — we have tried a variety of ways to encourage reflection, including immediate evaluations, sticky notes, and a postcard to one's self that we mailed later.

Action — this has been the most difficult space for continued engagement; we reach our limit of capacity as a school, but sometimes we feel hopeful that we're sparking changes.

Resources Needed

P4P works best when we have a committee that includes a board member, staff member and 1 or more parents to spark new ideas and to do the work...

We have thus far funded the project through private donations, grants, and sponsorship, and hope to continue building community support for the program.

The tasks are relatively simple but do require follow through, from choosing a topic, narrowing to an affordable but high quality speaker, coordinating the workshop and lecture as different, publicizing the event and providing logistical support (including snacks) but it has been worth it!

Parenting for Peace Checklist

1. Brainstorm possible topics that are salient in your local community
2. Look for “hot” books and speakers, pursuing info about availability and speaker fees (takes several weeks)
3. Negotiate a rate and pin down a date - make sure a suitable venue is secured and that you have a donor or fundraiser available to cover the costs.
4. Brainstorm potential “community partners” to invite as sponsors. Consider if you want to ask them to be paying sponsors or publicity sponsors and what to offer in return
5. Create publicity materials, including posters, postcards, Facebook event pages, twitter feeds — what makes sense in your particular community
6. If offering an educator’s workshop, consider if you want to offer CEUs and apply through your local governing agency
7. Decide how much food to provide (after school snacks for educators? A meal? Cookies at event? Nothing? Offer students a chance for a bake sale?) and arrange logistics
8. Arrange A.V. logistics — a microphone? Powerpoint? Tech drives everyone crazy!
9. Provide resources for preparation and for post-event reflection... book lists, articles, film suggestions, etc. help enrich the “one-off.”
10. Decide and prepare evaluations — what do you want to learn from participants and why
11. Decide and prepare action steps if desired
12. Make sure there is a point person to welcome the speaker and address travel logistics (picking someone up from the airport, offering housing, etc.)
13. Invite someone to introduce the speaker at the event
14. Make sure there are volunteers to help with registration and clean up!
15. Enjoy the engagement!

Parenting for Peace tips from the trenches

1. Start earlier than seems necessary.
2. Try to watch clips of the proposed speaker ahead of time - a great writer is not always a great speaker
3. Stick to a budget - a big name speaker can just be too expensive; at the same time there are unique sources of \$ for big names and it can be worth teaming up with a University department or a public library with a speaker budget in place. We also found special grants.
4. Develop faculty buy-in if working within a school and sort out when in your calendar a big event fits nicely — occasionally our events have felt like “too much” for our own community.
5. Take some chances - our best programs have been a bit “edgy”