



# Parenting Matters™ Foundation

A Nonprofit Organization - Tax ID# 94-3239604  
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www.firstteacher.org www.parentingmatters.org

June 23, 2009

## FUND RAISER FOR THE FIRST TEACHER PROGRAM

Parenting Matters Foundation, a nonprofit organization (tax #94 3239604), is the parent organization for the First Teacher program. The Sequim School District has been the major funder for the First Teacher program at the Sequim Community School for the past nineteen years. Due to the major cuts in school funding, the First Teacher program is in danger of being eliminated. We are asking for the community's support to keep this valuable program operating.

There are two aspects to the First Teacher program. One is our unique, informative newsletters that provide advice, support and encouragement as well as learning activities for families. We also supply developmental benchmark cards. **These are mailed to over 1675 parents and children in Sequim each month.**

The second aspect is the First Teacher drop-in center that offers a lending library and playroom, guest speakers, workshops and special programs such as parenting classes, Ready for Kindergarten, Block Fest, and developmental screenings. **The center serves 500-800 parents and children each month.**

On our yearly evaluations, area families say that the First Teacher program is their primary source of parenting information. They also say that as a result of reading the First Teacher newsletter:

- 87% read more with their child,
- 94% have tried new ways to encourage their child's learning and curiosity,
- 83% have learned new information about health and nutrition,
- 78% have learned where to go if they have a problem with their child,
- 90% have tried new strategies to increase their child's positive behavior, and most importantly,
- **99% say they would recommend the First Teacher program to others.**

We know that the early years in a child's life are critical in terms of the child's success in school. We have a program that we know is succeeding; now we need to find a way to keep it going.

In order to raise the needed funding, we are holding a fundraiser dinner at the Sequim Boys and Girls Club on Saturday, August 22 at 5:30 p.m. Tickets for the dinner will be \$45 per person. We are very fortunate to have as our guest speaker Dr. Bette Hyde, newly appointed director of the Department of Early Learning. Dr. Hyde will be speaking about the importance of community involvement in the education of our youngest children.

Would you consider helping us? There are several ways you can help:

- First, we would love to have you join us for this evening.
- We are seeking sponsors for the tables (\$300 for a table of 6 or \$400 for a table of 8).
- We are also seeking donations items for a silent auction.
- We would love to have community people become major sponsors by donating \$5,000, \$1000, or even \$500 to help us keep this program going. We want to keep our parenting material and services available for all parents.

If you are interested in supporting the First Teacher fundraiser, please call us at 681-2250 or e-mail us at [pmf@olypen.com](mailto:pmf@olypen.com). Your tax free donation would be acknowledged in our program if we hear from you by Monday, August 3. We really hope you can help us in this very important effort to help support our youngest citizens.

Thank you,

Cynthia Martin, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

*Helping parents do an excellent job as their child's first teacher.*



A United Way of Clallam County Partner Agency