

'Girls Matter' conference at Orchard Ridge can help kids

Keynote speaker for the third annual "Girls Matter" conference will be author Rosalind Wiseman, author of *Queen Bees and Wannabes: Helping Your Daughter Survive Cliques, Gossip, Boyfriends and Other Realities of Adolescence*.

The conference, designed for girls ages 11-14 and their parents, takes place Saturday, Nov. 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Building J on Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills. Admission is \$15 per person and the event is open to the public. Wiseman is co-founder and president of the Empower Program, a non-profit organization that empowers young people to stop the culture of violence. She was profiled in a cover story on girls' aggression in the *New York Times Magazine*, and has been featured in *Ms. Magazine*, the *Washington Post* and *USA Today*. Weekend Wiseman has also been interviewed on national television and radio programs including the CBS Evening News, CNN, National Public Radio and Oprah.

Wiseman is certified through Harvard University's "Program for Young Negotiators" and holds an advanced Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Occidental College, Los Angeles.

"According to both research and anecdotal information, girls' self-confidence is fairly high until 11 or 12 years of age," says OCC Womencenter Coordinator Arlene Frank. "Up to this point girls are appropriately perceptive about relationships and assertive about their feelings. At adolescence many begin to accept stereotypical notions about how they should behave (but) girls who continue to acknowledge their true feelings retain higher self-esteem," Frank said.

For girls, the conference objective is broadening awareness of the key to success and expand knowledge of the issues they face. For parents, the objectives are increasing awareness of the challenges facing adolescent girls, promoting understanding of the need to foster girls' sense

of self-worth, and assisting parents in utilizing resources to achieve these goals at both the personal and societal levels.

Wiseman's conference keynote presentation will illustrate how cliques play a powerful role in shaping what girls learn and how they feel about themselves. It will help girls and parents become equipped with the necessary tools for empowerment during the baffling and tumultuous adolescent years.

Workshops for girls will focus on education and careers, self-esteem, nutrition and body image, media influences, sexuality, peer pressure, setting boundaries, and making a difference in the world. Workshops for parents will focus on nutrition and body image, communication, setting boundaries with daughters, media influences, sexuality, and emotional intelligence.

Workshop presenters are all experts in their fields, organizers say. In addition to Wiseman, local presenters are Pam Micallef, Elissa Driker, Sauteel Jenkins, Kimber Bishop-Yanke, Susan Rogers, Melanie Jacob, Cheryl Munday, Carmen Kennedy, Judith Minton, and Elana Goell-Varkovitzky.

The "Girls Matter Conference" is presented by the Oakland Community College's Womencenter in collaboration with Girls Empowered, West Bloomfield Community Education, and the Farmington and Birmingham Public Schools. Conference friends and sponsors are Botsford Health Care Co., Dr. Nelson Herah, and the Farmington and Northville-Nowi Branches of the American Association of University Women.

The Oakland Community College Womencenter is a facility that provides educational and supportive resources for area women.

For more information and a registration brochure for the "Girls Matter" conference, call (248) 522-3642.

The Orchard Ridge Campus is located at 27055 Orchard Lake Road, just south of I-696 in Farmington Hills.

Alameda hosts first Fall Festival

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

More than 250 people participated Oct. 29 in the first Fall Festival and Pumpkin Hunt at the multi-acre Naturescape located behind the Alameda Early Childhood School in Farmington.

"More than half were kids, ages 3-5," said Terry Schneider, an Alameda paraprofessional. "We wanted to get back to the family feeling with the kids kindergarten through sec-

ond grade leaving."

Because of enrollment considerations, the school district made a decision earlier this year to return K-2 students to their home schools.

Students painted and decorated pumpkins as woodland animals which were wired to the appropriate area of the grounds.

"We put the owls in the trees, the beavers in the wood piles, the fish next to the ponds. There were also turtles, cats, dogs and pigs," Schneider said.

Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Rob Maxfield read to the children.

"He was only supposed to read one book, but we had him down there 45 minutes reading," Schneider said.

Maxfield played the part of the "second pumpkin" from "Five Little Pumpkins."

With appropriate inflections, he read the line: "The second said, 'There are witches in the air, ooooh,'"

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RECREATION NEWS

For more information on the following programs contact the City of Farmington Hills Recreation Division at (248) 473-1800.

Friday Night Madness

Kids ages 6-12 can enjoy an evening of swimming, movies,

food and organized games 7-11 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15 at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills.

You must pre-register by 4:30 p.m. the day of the program to reserve your spot. The fee to participate is \$10 per person.

Open Gym

Get your exercise at the Costick Center Gym: Adult basketball, 9-11 a.m. Sundays; adult volleyball, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays; teen basketball, 1-3 p.m. Sundays; Ping-pong, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

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