

Oct. 12, 2012

As a school administrator, I am always looking for ways in which I can support my school community. I am very proud to say that we do an excellent job with our students and in teaching to the whole child. However, one area that I am looking for improvement, is in regards to our parent education. With this in mind, I listened to a good friend of mine who recommended that I might want to hear Malcolm and Laura Gauld who were scheduled to speak at the Seven Hills School in Walnut Creek.

On Oct. 10, 2012, I drove down from Sacramento, not totally trusting that this 60 minute drive would be worth my time...however, I was curious about what I had been told about the Gaulds and in the topic that was for parents, "The Biggest Job We'll Ever Have." I had considered taking several staff down with me, but hesitated since I just wasn't sure of the value or how good the lecture would actually be.

I have been in education for nearly thirty years, the past twelve as a school administrator. I am the mother of two boys as well. I have heard many lectures, read many books, magazines, and articles on the "Art of Parenting." Nothing, nothing that I have heard or seen was as perfect as the talk by Laura and Malcolm Gauld.

As the title of the topic says, parenting is the biggest job we will ever have. Our children hold our hearts and souls. Laura and Malcolm touched everyone in that room whether they had a 1 year old, preschooler, 5 year old, pre-teen, teen, or even me with a twenty-three year old. Their uncanny ability to speak to each of us about the reality of our lives and our children's lives, with a sense of humor, and candor helped each of us re-focus on our parenting skills (or lack thereof), and our relationships with our children to better support them in the values and character traits that all of us want for our children.

Every parent should have the opportunity to sit with Laura and Malcolm to hear their thoughts about parenting. What should we be focused on? What areas can we truly make a difference? How can we best communicate with our children? We all want our children to be happy, compassionate, and successful when they become adults. In this lecture, they provide a road map to support that goal.

What I enjoyed as well was the ease of the presentation. Throughout the lecture, the entire room was full of laughter. The lecture was interactive and moved so quickly—I found I could have sat for another hour and listened to Laura and Malcolm. They are skilled public speakers, dynamic in their presentation, and are truly making a difference in people's lives. I wish that as a young parent I could have had the gift of hearing them both speak.

I would recommend to any institution that would have the opportunity to have Malcolm and Laura speak that it is something that should not be missed. My only regret is not taking several staff members with me. Now I am working with Hyde to see if I can entice Malcolm and Laura to my school. You won't be disappointed.

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