



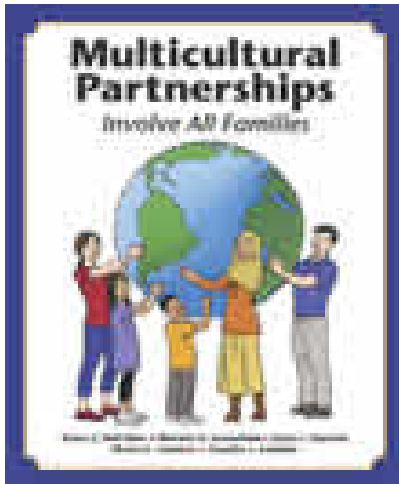
**National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS)**  
**2023 December E-Brief for Districts, States, and Organizations**



December marks the end of the calendar year.  
It's time for a winter holiday. That's worth a cheer!  
In 2024, we'll work to make partnership programs great,  
With family engagement for student success. Right now—let's celebrate!

NNPS will stay connected with you in our monthly *E-Briefs* as you design and implement partnership activities to increase student success. Check *E-Brief* each month for timely information to advance your leadership, plans, and practices of family and community engagement.

**THEME FOR THE YEAR: Tools You Can Use.**



The NNPS book, *Multicultural Partnerships: Involve All Families* (by Hutchins, Greenfeld, Epstein, Sanders, & Galindo, 2012) is an important and useful resource. Just about all districts and schools in NNPS serve highly diverse populations of students and families. This book includes a summary of research on the importance of engaging *all* families as partners in children's education. It offers many ideas and examples of activities to celebrate diversity at school and at home with Multicultural Nights, Workshops for Parents, and Connections with the Curriculum.

**Why is this a good tool to use?** Each chapter provides details on the purposes, materials, planning, and guidelines for conducting fun, responsive, and effective activities with diverse families. See how to feature students' artwork, engage parents in sharing childhood games and favorite stories, spotlight students' projects in reading, math, social studies, and more. All family engagement activities are in English and Spanish. The partnership practices in this book will enable you to recognize the strengths of all cultures and enable all families to support student learning at school and at home. See [Multicultural Partnerships Involve ALL Families](#).

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## **THANKS FOR RENEWING YOUR NNPS MEMBERSHIP!**

Thanks to all members of NNPS who returned their 2023 *UPDATEs* and renewal fees to continue partnering with NNPS for the 2023-24 school year! NNPS will analyze the UPDATE data and report results back to members by March 2024. The information provides a portrait of partnership program development across the country. Results help members of NNPS improve their programs from year to year. Members will continue to receive the l-o-n-g list of benefits from NNPS (see the list of member services in the section *Join NNPS* at [www.partnershipschoools.org](http://www.partnershipschoools.org)). Thank you for your national leadership on family and community engagement!

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## **Upcoming PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Opportunities from NNPS**

- **Free NNPS Webinar for District, Organization, and State Leaders for Partnerships—January 18, 2024**

This webinar is designed for new district, organization, regional, and state leaders in NNPS and for experienced leaders who want a quick “refresher” on the roles and responsibilities of leaders for partnerships. Learn to facilitate school-based Action Teams for Partnerships, hear best practices, and solve common challenges.

**Register for Free Webinar for NNPS Leaders.** To register, contact Brenda Thomas at [nnps@jhu.edu](mailto:nnps@jhu.edu). List your name, affiliation, e-mail address, and the words **Register for Free NNPS Leadership Webinar**. The webinar is a benefit of membership.

- **Free Webinar for Schools' ATPs—February 20, 2024**  
This webinar will help school-based Action Teams for Partnerships (ATPs) understand the NNPS “BASICS.” Topics include ten steps to partnership success, how to strengthen the ATP, and how to write a goal-linked action plan for the 2024-25 school year. Members of the ATP should attend this webinar together.

**Register for Free Webinar for school ATPs.** To register, contact Brenda Thomas at [nnps@jhu.edu](mailto:nnps@jhu.edu). List your name, affiliation, e-mail address, and the words **Register for Free NNPS School ATP Webinar**. The webinar is a benefit of membership.

- **NNPS Leadership Institute on Partnership Program Development for District, Organization, Region, and State Leaders**

**Save the Dates: March 12, 13, 14, 2024**  
**Live, Online in Three Parts (2-5 p.m., EDT)**

Join district, organization, regional, and state leaders from across the country for the live-online NNPS Leadership Institute on research-based partnership program development. This intensive institute will enable you to guide schools' Action Teams for Partnerships (ATPs) to organize, implement, evaluate, and continually improve their programs of family and community engagement for student success in school. **The Leadership Institute is for:**

- (1) new leaders at the district, organization, regional, and state level.**
- (2) all leaders who are ready to work with school ATPs.**
- (3) new colleagues working on partnership program development.**

**The Spring 2024 NNPS Leadership Institute will celebrate TEAMWORK!** One leader registers and may bring along one colleague at no extra cost. Don't miss your opportunity to participate in this important

professional development with its **PLUS-ONE-BONUS—ONE registration will cover 2 colleagues who attend the Institute together.**

**Save the dates NOW.**

**COMING SOON: Watch for the brochure and registration form on the NNPS website.**

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## **YOUR SPACE**

This is *YOUR SPACE* where we feature creative and important activities from *Promising Partnership Practice 2023*. Feel free to adopt or adapt these ideas. You also may send in a new activity to Brenda Thomas during the year ([bthomas@jhu.edu](mailto:bthomas@jhu.edu)), OR send a question to NNPS to solve an emerging challenge. We will address your question in *YOUR SPACE*.

***Enhanced Communication: Kick It Up A Notch!*** was reported by **Esmeralda Valencia, Parent Engagement Coordinator, Kassy Valdez, Parent Partnership Coordinator, and Lorraine Landon, Special Programs Coordinator, Pasco School District One in Pasco, WA.** The district leaders encouraged every school to help all of their families know about the work of their school's Action Team for Partnerships (ATP) and how to participate as an active partner at school and at home. The district leaders guided schools to use two tools: (1) renewable trifold display boards to show parents all of their partnership plans and activities for the year; and (2) a "timeless" audio recording on the work of the school's ATP.

Pasco's schools were creative. They decorated their trifolds with school colors, mascots, photos, ATP meeting dates, volunteer opportunities, and schedules of partnership activities for the school year. Some schools posted QR codes for families to link to the school's website, teachers, and administrators. The partnership leaders and colleagues collaborated with a local radio station DJ to produce a 60-second audio message in English and in Spanish about the work of each school's ATP.

Read more about ***Enhanced Communication: Kick It Up a Notch*** on pages 44-45 in *Promising Partnership Practices 2023*.

See the *Social Media* section, below, for photos of this activity and to listen to the short audio message about ATPs in English and Spanish.

***We Both Read: Books and Blankets*** at **A. J. Lewis Greenview Elementary School in Columbia, SC**, was reported by **Glenda Wright, Family Service Advocate, in Richland County School District One.**

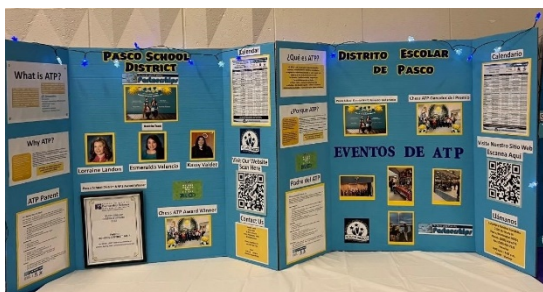
Greenview works hard to improve students' literacy skills and attitudes. Last year, one family engagement activity focused on 40 students who would benefit from extra TLC in reading. Teachers introduced parents and students to the *We Both Read* books that guide shared reading strategies. For example, parents read the left hand page of a prepared book and students read the right hand page. They talk together about the story ideas, characters, and illustrations. Community partners donated cookies, hot chocolate, and blankets, which each family could keep for cozy reading at home. This is a "forever" item on many teachers' agendas at all grade levels. *Books and Blankets* added a family engagement strategy to support the importance of students' reading for pleasure at home.

Click on the hot chocolate to read more about *Books and Blankets* on pages 8-9 in *Promising Partnership Practices 2023*.



## NNPS and SOCIAL MEDIA

**Pasco School District One in Pasco, WA**, showcased Partnership Trifolds in their project *Enhanced Communication: Kick It Up A Notch*.



Pasco School District's District Partnership Trifold in English and Spanish displayed at the Pasco District's Winter Carnival, 2023



The Pasco Schools' Trifold Gallery Walk at the 2023 Pasco District Winter Carnival.

## 60-minute Audio Recording

Listen to the 60-minute audio recordings (here or on Pasco School District One's website. Click here to get to the recordings: [mp3 in English and Spanish](#). Go to: + What is ATP in 60 secs.

Click here to see other information and photos on the district website: [ATP Resources - Pasco School District \(psd1.org\)](#)

NNPS *Facebook* is a networking tool. Please send photos of the partnership activities that you conduct throughout the year with a short sentence description and your name and affiliation to Brenda Thomas at [nnps@jhu.edu](mailto:nnps@jhu.edu). We will select some to add to NNPS's *Facebook* page.

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## **NNPS Members-Only Access Code**

The **MEMBERS-ONLY CODE** gives special benefits to active members of NNPS. The **Members-Only Access Code** is **NNPS23mem**. On the website, [www.partnershipschools.org](http://www.partnershipschools.org), you can use the Code to explore many years' books of *Promising Partnership Practices* and all *18 NNPS Samplers* of goal-linked partnership activities in the section Success Stories.

**Note:** The member-access code will change in January to serve those who renewed membership for the 2023-24 school year. We will remind you of the code in every month's *E-Brief*.

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## **SUPPORT NNPS! Tis the season for giving!**

It's the end of the year and a good time to make a tax-deductible donation for 2023. Please think of NNPS. Your donation supports NNPS's unique projects—books of *Promising Partnership Practices*, *Partnership Awards*, monthly *E-Briefs*, Annual *UPDATE* evaluations and reports, and our excellent website. Here's how: Click the **Donate** link. Indicate your gift and scroll down through Research Centers to the **National Network of Partnership Schools**. Click **Continue as Guest** and complete your donation.

### **DONATE!**

NNPS appreciates your tax-deductible contribution. The University and NNPS will send official acknowledgements of your donation for tax purposes. Thank you!

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**Have a joyous holiday!**



## **We look forward to 2024—a year of strong partnerships for student success!**



**In partnership,  
Brenda, Steve, and  
Joyce  
*The NNPS Team***

The NNPS School E-Brief is disseminated once a month during the school year. The E-Brief is intended to:

1. Offer timely information to support your efforts to build comprehensive school, family, and community partnership programs.
2. Update you on available research, tools, materials, services, and training opportunities from the National Network of Partnership Schools.
3. Provide you with a vehicle to exchange ideas with, ask questions of, and share resources with other NNPS members and the NNPS staff.

To respond to NNPS about an E-Brief, click “Reply” and you will send your email only to me, Brenda Thomas.

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