

Coffee Break

Laguna Beach PTA Parent Education

A Special Presentation by Dr. Denise Pope

“Doing School”: Is Your Child Engaged or Just Working the System?

Pressure to get into a good college has created an alarming increase in academic stress for high-school students. Recent research has revealed a troubling view of how many students pursue high grades and “success.” They work hard in school, participate in extracurricular activities, serve their communities, earn awards and honors, and appear to uphold school values.

But some feel caught in an ethical dilemma: Do they have to compromise their values and manipulate the system in order to remain competitive? In short, they “do school”—that is, they are not really engaged with learning nor can they fully commit to such values as integrity and community.

Come learn about strategies to promote healthier home and school settings so your child can avoid the traps lurking along the fast track.

Denise Pope, PH.D.

Dr. Pope is on the faculty at the Stanford University School of Education. She founded the SOS: Stressed-Out Students project, a research and intervention effort to work with K-12 schools to counter the causes of academic stress. She lectures nationally on strategies to increase student health, engagement with learning, and integrity. Her book, *“Doing School”: How We Are Creating a Generation of Stressed Out, Materialistic, and Miseducated Students* was awarded Notable Book in Education by the American School Board Journal in 2001.

Learn About:

- How schools can cultivate intellectual curiosity, cooperation and integrity
- The consequences of fostering anxiety, deception and hostility
- Whether stress at school is undermining the values schools hope to embrace
- Whether current assessment practices measure the kinds of success we want for our kids
- How to tell if your child is caught in the “grade trap”

Coffee Break is supported by the Laguna Beach PTA Council, The Foundation for the Contemporary Family, School Power, and the Surf & Sand Hotel. Due to the open forum with interaction from participants, opinions not sanctioned by the school district or the PTA may be expressed.

Questions? Contact Judith Anderson at 949-494-0447 or drjzanderson@cox.net.

**Wednesday,
January 16, 2008
8:15 to 10:00 am
The Surf and Sand Hotel
\$5 includes
coffee & muffins**