

Parents and teachers not battling each other

To the Editor:

An article was published in the September edition of *Philadelphia Magazine* titled, "Parents vs. Teachers; how the war is hurting our kids."

Unfortunately, this is a negative perspective that is exaggerated. Yes, there are some conflicts and differences that have surfaced between parents and teachers, but it is a rarity. Both groups are interested in the welfare and success of children.

Educators are becoming increasingly aware that in schools that value parent participation there are higher achievement, more-positive attitudes and more-effective programs. Research conducted at Johns Hopkins University indicates that teachers who involve parents are rated by parents as having higher overall teacher ability.

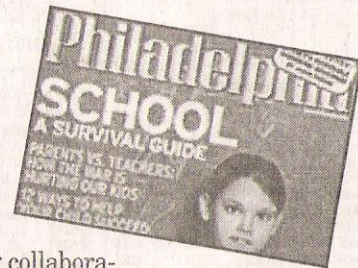
Many teachers attempt to work with parents by improving communication between home and school; helping parents

work with their children at home; involving parents in school activities; developing collaborative planning among parents, students, and teachers; and empowering parents to become decision makers in their children's school.

School-home communication is becoming more prevalent. This concept is part of the preparation of future teachers. Parents also are taking a greater role as partners in their children's education. Schools encourage parents to interact with teachers, counselors and administrators.

Some of the activities that are recommended to parents are:

- Ideas to enhance learning at home.



- Helping students to develop self-esteem.

- Motivation of learners.

- Homework tips for parents.

- Parents getting involved and attending school activities.

True, there are some parents who are negligent of their responsibilities, but the reasons are usually because of personal problems. True also, there are some teachers who are not meeting their professional obligations. But in both cases this is a rarity, as mentioned previously. Both groups want to develop useful adults and a solid community. Success is the goal of both.

Success breeds success. I hope readers don't take the *Philadelphia* article too seriously.

MORTON TENER
Professor
Secondary Education
Rowan University
Glassboro