

Have You Heard?

Next fall, Red Clay will partner with *Be Strong Families* to pilot Parent Cafés at Mote Elementary School.

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Parent Cafés will provide an informal and inviting opportunity for parents and caregivers to discuss issues that are important to the well-being of their children. The cafés strengthen and support families and communities by building peer-to-peer learning, family support, and parent leadership opportunities. A small cohort of both English and Spanish speaking families at Mote will receive training to lead and facilitate three Parent Café sessions, which will be held throughout the school year. The parent-led cafés will each have a theme. “The goal of Red Clay parent cafés is to facilitate meaningful conversations that lead to continued collaboration between parents and schools. The discussions will address the five protective factors of, resilience, positive social connections, concrete support in times of need, social, emotional and cognitive competence and knowledge. Our goal is to create a safe environment where parents and staff can share and support each other as a strategy for strengthening families,” explained April Anderson, Red Clay McKinney Vento Liaison and Dropout Prevention Specialist.

Parent Cafés at Mote will involve small round table discussions with a maximum of five people per table, including a parent facilitator. A 1 ½ day Summer Institute training session for up to 30 people will be offered to Mote parents/caregivers and Red Clay staff. Both the training and materials will be available in English and Spanish. Dinner and childcare will be provided.

Through participation in the Parent Cafés, it is hoped parents and caregivers will build leadership, collaboration and relationships as well as the protective factors that help to keep their families strong.