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Williams Presents the Must See Documentary, “Race to Nowhere”

On Thursday, November 4th Williams Elementary presented a very powerful documentary called, “Race to Nowhere” to a packed cafeteria of 100 concerned Williams parents. Film Synopsis: A concerned mother turned filmmaker aims her camera at the high-stakes, high-pressure culture that has invaded our schools and our children’s lives. The film points to the silent epidemic in our schools: cheating has become commonplace; students are disengaged; stress-related illness and depression are rampant; and many young people arrive at college and the workplace unprepared and uninspired. Race to Nowhere is a call to action for families, educators, and policy makers to challenge current assumptions on how to best prepare the youth of America to become healthy, bright, contributing and leading citizens.

“This documentary makes people question what is going on in their families’ lives and I wanted the parents at Williams to have the opportunity to hear this important message,” said Peggy Koskie, Williams WINS President. Karen Heverling, Williams Principal said, “Williams’ parents were hungry to talk about these issues and this was the perfect forum to do this. I would like this dialogue to continue, my door is always open to listen to parents concerns. I highly encourage parents to enjoy their kids while they are young because this time goes by so fast and it will never be the same when they are older.” Leslie Reynolds, SJUSD Board of Education Area 5, Janice Samuels, Simonds Principal, Cyndi Maijala, Bret Harte Principal, and Priscilla Spencer, Graystone Principal, were all in attendance.

Jarreau Bowen, Stanford’s Peer Health Education Coordinator and actor in the film facilitated the discussion after the documentary. The parents participated in a highly engaging dialogue about issues including too much homework, teachers’ roles, test scores, kids leading a balanced life style, letting kids learn to fail, let kids be kids and what we can do to solve these issues. Leslie Reynolds and Karen Heverling helped answer many of the questions, resolved issues, and offered great advice.

Amato Pizzeria sponsored this event and paid the \$500 licensing fee to show the documentary to 100 people.

For information about the film or to schedule a viewing visit www.RaceToNowhere.com.