

The Times Record

www.timesrecord.com

Volume 36 Number 182 • 26 pages

BRUNSWICK, MAINE

Tuesday, October 22, 2002 • 50 cents

Parenting experts launch national tour

BY CHRISTOPHER COUSINS

Times Record Staff

BATH

Just because Laura and Malcolm Gauld are authors of a new book on parenting doesn't mean they're immune to the pressures and challenges of raising their own children.

The Gaulds' three children, who have watched their parents become nationally recognized experts on parenting during the past four years, face pressure daily to be good kids, said Laura, who has found herself following her own advice.

"I have to make sure I show my kids that I'm not perfect," said Laura. "In fact, they have to know that lots of times, I'm way off track."

That tidbit is just one piece of information included in the Gaulds' book "The Biggest Job We'll Ever Have: The Hyde School Program for Character-Based Education and Parenting," which was published in March by Scribner. Tonight the Gaulds will begin a 12-city national tour to promote the book and its content. The 290-page book details 10 "priorities" parents should follow to better serve their children.

Malcolm Gauld is president and chief executive officer of the four Hyde Schools; Laura Gauld is the director of family education programs for Hyde Schools. They begin their book tour tonight at 6:30 p.m. at Merrill Auditorium in Portland. Cost is \$25 per person.

The tour will take them to at least 11 other cities across the United States, including Littleton, Colo., and Oakland, Calif. More cities could be added to the tour, which will be done over time as opposed to taking the Gaulds away from Bath for an extended period.

To date, about 20,000 copies of the book have been sold, said Laura Gauld. It is available in bookstores across the country, including at Bath Book Shop on Front Street, where the hardcover sells for \$26. Laura said Hyde School has already seen the book generate interest among prospective students and their families.

"The Biggest Job We'll Ever Have" is geared for parents and educators. At the Stanwich School in Greenwich, Conn., parents and faculty were asked to read the book this year as part of summer reading recommendations. The response was positive, said Headmistress Patricia Young. The Gaulds will follow up by taking their presentation to the school—a 300-student private school including kindergarten through sixth grade—in November.



Laura and Malcolm Gauld

"Our parents and faculty really enjoyed it," said Young. "We're all truly looking forward to hearing them speak. The suggestions in the book are real; they tell you the how-to of parenting." Young said a parent brought the book to her attention because it closely follows the philosophies practiced at The Stanwich School.

"If you read the book, you'll see that the 'priorities' are pretty close to the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule," said Young.

"I'm grateful we have people like the Gaulds out there."

Laura Gauld said she and her husband are working on behalf of parents as much as their children.

"Parenting is the biggest job we'll ever have. It is never too late to raise the standards in a family," said Gauld. "It is time to rebuild the wheel, beginning with the two most critical spokes: school and family. As parents, the first most important thing we can do for our children is to accept that we all need help."

For more information about the Gaulds' workshop schedule, go to the Hyde Web site at www.hyde.edu.