

Planetarium Initiatory Event™ – PIE™
Central Themes, Structure & Design¹
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Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?

– Paul Gauguin



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*Knowing our connection with the universe is essential,
especially for adolescents as they seek a vision for their life.*

Central themes

1. Children entering puberty and preparing to come of age need experiences that meet a central developmental task of figuring out where they've come from, who they are and where they are going.
2. Parents need to recognize and affirm the beginning of the end of their children's childhood in ways that make a place for their emerging adulthood.
3. Parents need to recognize and affirm their own transition into the next phase of their lives - mid-life - and help lessen a potential collision of transitions between adolescence and mid-life.
4. School and community resources come together as a "village" to teach essential skills, build competencies and provide opportunities for youth to demonstrate newly acquired skills and receive rewards and recognition for doing so.
5. Other mentors (older students) need to be present to provide support and guidance as children begin to separate from parents.
6. Children need to explore the central story of the Universe to understand where they have come from which can help them find their place.

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7. Children need to understand their biology and recognize that the percentage of water and saline within them is similar to the percentage of water and saline in the ocean.
8. Children need to explore how all things are related.
9. The PIE Guide and Workbook support conversation that helps parents and children create plans for each to accommodate for the changes that are commencing.



Structure & Design of PIE

PIE is designed as a "community intervention" and features an interactive multi-media Planetarium Initiatory Event (PIE) for parents/guardians and children entering puberty and transitioning from primary into secondary school. The central storyline in PIE is carried in a drama between 4 youth entering puberty/adolescence, 4 college students and 4 parents of adolescents.

This powerful animated comedic drama is set under the night sky and depicts the adolescents witnessing the unfolding story of the universe, creation of our solar system, earth and our own evolution. The storyline reveals to the adolescents how a balance of opposites holds all forces in the Universe together. They come to understand that love is the most powerful force in the universe and that they (adolescents) are in a unique evolutionary position, with their "adaptive brain," to help their community remember the

power of love. It ends with the teens awakening to their newfound responsibility and potential to become “super heroes” and save their community.

They formulate plans to summon the community together for conversations. It integrates the story of the Universe with human development, evolutionary biology, and the laws of physics all within the framework of youth & community development through rites of passage. Through the full dome planetarium show the concept that all things are related and essential to healthy development is amplified.

The full dome planetarium show portion of the "intervention" is sandwiched between an intentional entrance into a specially created setting and a “Cosmic Café” following the show. The program begins when children and their parents/guardians enter the lobby of the planetarium. Parents and children eat together laying the foundation for the formation of a village atmosphere. After the meal everyone watches a short 6-minute video called “En-Trance” that helps people prepare to ‘enter’ the experience. Parents and children are separated and each group is shown a special video entitled “PREPARATION” which is designed to provide a marked separation between the parents/guardians and child. It sets forth an expectation in the community that both parent and child are entering a period of transition and that something needs to happen for both in order for a child to mature and come of age.

Participants learn about the sound of the Universe, A-110. They make this sound aloud as they enter and are seated in the planetarium, awaiting the start of the dome show. In essence they are all vibrating in the same frequency. The dome comes alive. We’ve called it “Oming in the Dome.” A cosmic community is being born.

Immediately following the 34-minute planetarium show parents and children convene for a "Cosmic Café," adapted from the principles of a World Café. They discuss how children and adults can remember ways to bring compassion into their homes, schools and community.

Conversations are graphically recorded, captured digitally and posted on a new dedicated website: www.pievent.org. This place in cyber space is a central repository for sharing strategies that people can adapt to bring compassion into their homes, schools and community. Students are recognized as a community asset - “potential super heroes” - and become full partners with school administrators, teachers, parents, older students and other adults in formulating ways to bring compassion into their homes and schools, thereby altering the climate of the schools to one of caring and compassion.

Not A One Shot Show

PIE is powerful when there is a process established for continuing the conversations. It is not a one shot show. The follow-up design includes a schedule and program for children,

their parents, other adults, teenagers and segments of the public school population to come together to put ideas germinated during the [Cosmic Café](#) into practice. These working groups will be supported by The PIE Guide: From Words to Deeds –Compassion in Action.” This is a short paperback reader with cartoons, information, suggested activities and illustrations that helps make conversations between parents and their children fun and accessible. It is accompanied by “The PIE Workbook: Conversation: A New Frontier.” This provides specific information to help nurture conversations between parents and teens. There are hands on activity sheets including two planning worksheets, “Plan for Kindness” and “Plan for Becoming an Adult.” Other designs, programs and activities will emerge within a child’s home, school and community as the theme of PIE moves out into the community and stimulates other actions.

Teenagers Are Powerful Allies

The central theme, structure and design of PIE takes teenagers seriously and respects their potential to formulate adaptive strategies to deal with any eventuality. They can be powerful allies and assets in refining PIE design strategies within a particular setting. Furthermore, with support and modest guidance from adults they can actually organize and facilitate the entire event. PIE is one of the most sophisticated, comprehensive, whole systems approaches to youth and community development through rites of passage and is basically almost turn-key at an operational level.



WHEN IS THE WORLD GOING TO REALIZE THAT
WE KNOW EVERYTHING?!