

# Transforming Boys in the Primary Grades

A Workshop for Teachers and School Leaders

**Transforming Boys in the Primary Grades** is a workshop designed for teachers of boys in primary schools or primary divisions of larger schools. Its chief focus is to refine and make intentional the *relational* dimension of classroom work. Based on promising new international findings about the transformational effect of positive teacher-student relationships on boys, including the specific relational gestures that create those relationships, the workshop will--

- Introduce current findings about relational theory
- Explore the dynamics of both effective and ineffective relationships
- Guide participating teachers in a consideration of their own relational approaches
- Deepen relational understanding by sharing established relational narratives and documentary film footage illustrating successful relational practice
- Invite teachers to contribute their own relational experience to the growing body of research about relating effectively to boys

The workshops are structured flexibly, so as to accommodate after school sessions, half-day sessions, or full-day sessions.

The workshop presenters are University School Emeritus Headmaster and founding president of the International Boys Schools Coalition **Dr. Richard Hawley** and veteran primary grades teacher and long time teacher mentor **Linda Rohler**.

Richard Hawley has lectured and published widely on boys and schools, most recently *Reaching Boys/Teaching Boys* (Jossey-Bass) and *I Can Learn from You: Boys as Relational Learners* (Harvard Education Press). Together they have collaborated on the IBSC monograph *The Power of Relational Engagement to Transform Elementary School Boys*, which establishes the foundation for the workshop. Linda Rohler has taught in both public and private school settings. Her students have

ranged from children of rural Pennsylvania coal miners to special needs children in the city of Cleveland public schools to the boys of Cleveland's University School, a rigorous college preparatory school. For years at University school she mentored young teachers in the school's in-residence M.A. program in education.