

the parent

connection

interesting facts:

Recent studies have shown that parents mostly rely on their own personal observations and setting family guidelines for their children's internet access. One in two parents do not use blocking or filtering software for their computers...however, here are some facts that may encourage a higher percentage of filter users:

- There are 1.3 million pornographic websites, with web pages now topping 260 million and growing at an unprecedented rate on the Internet. Of those commercial porn sites, 66% don't include warnings of adult content, and 11% did include a warning but didn't have sexually explicit content on the homepage. 25% of the sites prevented the users from exiting the site, known as "mouse-trapping."
- One in five children who use computer chatrooms has been approached over the Internet by pedophiles. 89% of the sexual solicitations were made in either chatrooms or by Instant Messaging. 25% of youth who received a sexual solicitation told a parent.

[Pew Study in JAMA, 2001; The Kaiser Family Foundation in consultation with International Communications Research, 2001—ProtectKids.com]

Fall's Family Ties

BY HEATHER A. EADES

So summer is officially over, and all those dreams of family vacation, summer projects, and enjoying your time as a family are left somewhere back in May. Where did the summer go?! Seems like just yesterday the kids were running off the bus throwing their backpacks into the streets.... Now the packs are stuffed to maximum capacity, giving your children back problems all over again. Summers can fly by before you even realize it, but that doesn't mean your opportunities for family bonding have to hibernate. Try one of these following ideas to keep family members fully plugged in to each others lives throughout the year.

- Weekend camping trips. Fall is the perfect time for the whole family to get away from the chaos of the week, gather around the campfire on crisp autumn nights, and just catch up on life. Plan a couple weeks out to make sure there aren't conflicts with schedules, load up the family vehicle the night before and simply take off once everyone gets home on Friday. These trips can also be great opportunities to explore your state. Visit a new location with each trip and discover interesting facts about your destination. Or visit family members or friends, making sure you still have time carved out for just your family.
- No time for a full weekend commitment? How about a day trip, like canoeing, hiking or biking? Exercising together as a family is a great way to insure a year of health not only physically as a family, but emotionally and spiritually as well.
- Be each other's cheerleader. A family that supports one another's activities creates a bond of unity and love. It's amazing what is communicated through the action of simply showing up. Whether it's the whole family goes to watch Zack play each Friday night in the marching band, or dad and some of the kids cheer mom and Alexa on as they run a 5k. Support one another in love.

The one that gets pushed to the wayside so often...eat your meals together. With everyone involved in so many activities, coming in and out of the house at different times, catching the family at one time to eat dinner can be a difficult maneuver to pull off. By putting family mealtime as a priority, you guarantee communication is flowing in your household. Pray together at your mealtime. Maybe even hold a family Bible study on one of those evenings. But set this important time of bonding and communication as a value your family upholds.

Just because you've waved good-bye to summer doesn't mean the times of family fun and memory-making are put on hold. They've merely changed form.

from the desk of:

Jeff Allen

Welcome to the first installment of the "Parent Connection" – a monthly newsletter for all youth parents! This newsletter will feature articles and information from a variety of youth ministry sources around the world. The purpose of this publication is to help inform you the parents - the people on the front lines of youth ministry - of things going on in our church as well as youth culture everywhere. I hope you enjoy it!

Upcoming Parent Meeting

There will be a Youth Parent meeting on Sunday, September 12 at 5:00 PM in the Youth Room. This meeting is being held in order to help parents become informed about things going on in the youth ministry. Upcoming events, additions to the regular schedule, and other items are on the agenda. The primary purpose for this meeting is to offer youth parents the opportunity to get together for fellowship and support. Please make plans to attend this fun and informative meeting. Who knows, you may find someone else who is thinking about how good it was *before* they were teenagers!

Prayer Partner Sign-ups

During the month of September, we will begin sign-ups for our prayer partner ministry. This ministry seeks to connect people of all ages in our church for the purpose of prayer support and the development of significant relationships. It excites me just thinking about the possible impact these prayer partners could have on our church! If you have questions about how it will work, please give me a call!

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September 2004 Teaching Schedule

September 5, 2004 "The Price of Running" (Luke 14:25-33)

What do I have to do to be a winner in the race of life? The Bible encourages us to follow Jesus Christ's example of commitment and obedience to God. To win as an effective disciple means I have to be willing to live by God's priorities, not mine or the world's.

September 12, 2004 "How Bad Is Too Bad?" (1 Timothy 1:12-17)

Can a person be so bad that God can't, or won't save him? God wants you to accept His forgiveness through Jesus Christ for every sin you've ever committed. Don't let guilt or shame keep you from God's forgiveness and eternal life.

September 19, 2004 "It's Only Money" (Luke 16:1-13)

Why doesn't God make all His children rich? Well, perhaps He is far more interested in developing us into faithful servants than in merely making us rich. Money and what money can buy are very small things in comparison to the riches God wants to give His trustworthy servants.

September 26, 2004 "The Root of All Kinds of Evil" (1 Timothy 6:6-19)

How can I use my material resources in a way that pleases God? If you are generous, willing to share, and desiring to do good things with your money, you please God and build treasure in heaven. Only our relationship with God will last for eternity. That is where we should invest everything we can.

week



Youth Culture Bytes

An alarming trend in teen drug abuse has caused grocers to start pulling medicine cabinet staples right off the shelf. The latest high for teenagers doesn't involve needles or snorting or cost tons of money. Basic cough and cold tablets are what drug-abusing teens are turning to for the latest high of choice.

These over-the-counter drugs, such as Coricidin are being pulled from shelves at many store pharmacies, and now have to be purchased by adults only at many locations. Teens are not simply taking one or two pills, but rather they take boxes of the medicine. Not only is this dangerous, but can be deadly as well. Many teens aren't even paying close attention to the medicines they're purchasing, and instead of buying the cold and cough medicine, they mistakenly buy and overdose on cold and flu medicine, which can cause liver failure when taken in such extreme amounts.

Teens refer to these drugs as "Triple C" or "Skittles," so first and foremost, keep your ears open to your teens' conversations, and update them on this info as well as to the dangers and deadlines found in a few moments of a manipulated high.

Continued from Jeff's desk

Crosstraining Set to Begin

You may have heard of something new we are trying in our youth ministry. It is called "Crosstraining" and it is going to be a great addition to our Sunday night schedule! But you may be wondering what exactly Crosstraining is...well read on!

Our youth group has two great ministry teams already—Eyewitness and yoU-turn! We think it is time to expand those ministry teams so that there is a place for everyone to serve. We believe God has given everyone gifts and He requires each person to develop and use those gifts ultimately for Him. This is the purpose behind the "Crosstraining" Ministry team idea!

This is how it will happen. Every Sunday night (beginning September 19) after Snack Supper, all the teams will meet together for a short devotion time. Then each team will split up and work on their thing. These teams will work on things like getting ready for Fall Retreat, doing the Youth Group web site, and so much more! The list of teams includes – drama, eyewitness, internet, scrapbook, yoU-turn, and a video team. Crosstraining will be done at 7:30 PM

We are in need of people to help make these teams work. If you are willing to help, we need you. Experience is not necessary! All you need is a willingness to have fun and invest time in helping a youth find out how God has gifted them. Please give me a call if you are ready, willing, and able!



Carl got conked by some treasure from heaven.

K. Spear



CPBC Youth Ministry
College Park Baptist Church
1701 Polo Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27106