

PARENT UPDATE

PUC Church

W.I.R.E.D

Pastor Jen

Welcome Parents to our W.I.R.E.D Newsletter - hope you enjoy it and it serves as a help to you.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Lake Day

On 6/26/15 from 3:00PM to 8:30PM

Please meet at PREP at 2:30p.m. if you will be needing a ride, bring your permission forms with you if you have not turned them in already. Dinner and Vespers to follow.

Sabbath School

On 6/27/15 from 10:00AM to 11:15AM

come join us for a light breakfast, music, and the Word - brought to us by Gabe Riojas

Movie Vespers

On 07/03/15 from 7:00PM to 9:00PM

come join us for an inspirational movie and popcorn at W.I.R.E.D. Hope you can come:)

Tips for Helping Your Kids Discover Their Strengths and Weaknesses

By Jim Burns

It's a given that everyone has their own strengths and weaknesses. What is not a certainty, however, is at what point in life people recognize them. The earlier our kids come to understand their strengths and weakness, the more satisfied and productive they will become in their lives. Here are seven tips that will assist you as you help your child come to a better understanding of the person God is creating him or her to become.

1. Spend lots of time observing your kids in various settings.

Watch them at work and at play. What kinds of tasks come easy? Which tasks seem difficult? What activities and tasks do they enjoy? Which ones do they dislike?

2. Affirm and/or challenge your kids.

Provide lots of affirmation for strengths you can identify in your kids. Challenge them when you recognize weaknesses in areas where they need to develop life skills. Challenge them to develop increasing skills in their areas of giftedness.

3. Evaluate with your kids.

Get feedback from your kids regarding how they feel about various task-related areas of their lives. Discuss with them how tasks they enjoy may be signs of giftedness, while tasks they dislike may be signs of weaknesses.

4. Encourage experimentation.

Kids should have many opportunities to experience and experiment. Kids often stumble onto both hidden strengths and weaknesses through new experiences. Don't let your kids get into a rut of only doing the same old things.

5. Don't focus on improvement of weaknesses in areas that aren't important.

There are some life skills that are necessary for kids to learn in order to function as an adult and, for sure, your kids should work on these. But in areas that aren't important, kids can better spend their time and energy by focusing on developing their strengths rather than improving their weaknesses.

6. Don't "buttonhole" kids early in life.

When your kids are young they will excel in some areas and falter in others. The wise parent, however, will allow their kids' interests and abilities to change, as they get older, rather than "buttonholing" kids to a specific area of previous giftedness.

7. Encourage dreaming, creativity, and passion.

A big part of the meaning and value of strengths and weaknesses has to do with the context of where those tasks are carried out. Encourage your child to dream about the how and where God would give them a passion for using their strengths.

Social Media: Revisiting Snapchat

By HomeWord.com

Adults suggest that Snapchat is a potentially dangerous smartphone app for teenagers – for all of the right reasons: kids can use it to send a sext with a false sense of security that no one but the recipient will ever see the picture – since the snap will self-destruct within seconds. But we adults know that even semi-tech-savvy kids can take a screenshot before the picture disappears and redistribute the picture where it might reside on the interwebs for eternity.

And yet this well-known fly in the ointment of Snapchat focuses on the strictly negative, while primarily ignoring the normal and customary teen use of the app.

Do some kids use Snapchat to sext? Yes. Do a majority of kids use Snapchat this way? No.

According to Global Web Index, Snapchat was the largest growing global social app in 2014. At a growth rate of 57%, Snapchat outpaced Facebook Messenger (50%), Pinterest (43%), and Instagram (43%). More than half of Snapchat's users are between the ages of 16 and 24. In the U.S., 35% of teenagers use Snapchat.

So why do teenagers love to use Snapchat? In an online article, FoxBusiness columnist, Steve Tobak, suggested that it is because Snapchat mirrors real life and harkens back to a time when “Boomers and Gen Xers grew up having private conversations between friends. We could be young and dumb with no repercussions as long as we weren't overheard and nobody snitched.” Early social media changed this “private” dynamic with posts becoming “public, permanent, and searchable.”

Snapchat allows teens to regain some measure of the increasingly lost art of having private conversations between friends – albeit with a 21st Century digital twist.

Global Web Index researched why teens, ages 16 to 19 like to use Snapchat and identified their top three reasons: It's fun to use (69%), Lots of my friends are using it (62%), It's free (54%). Perhaps it's revealing to note that sexting didn't even make the list for why teens use the app.

How parents can safeguard their kids' use of apps like Snapchat:

1. Discuss social media with kids. Focus on both the positive and negative aspects of using picture-based apps, as well as the importance of protecting one's reputation.
2. Set reasonable expectations and consequences for smartphone app use.
3. Make sure your kids appropriately use the Snapchat app privacy settings for “who can send me Snaps” and “who can see my Story”.
4. If you don't allow your kids to use Snapchat, find other acceptable ways for them to experience a healthy measure of private conversations between friends.