

Parent Update



March Stats

Grove Youth Stats

- 6: different youth room seating arrangements tested
- 122: pieces of pizza consumed at Jr. High's Midnight Madness event.
- 8: youth and leaders involved with YFC's Project Serve Missions Teams
- 17: youth at the Sr. High Redberry Retreat.

HELLO PARENTS

The season of spring brings new growth and we hope that this Parent Update will give you some thoughts and resources to help your family grow too.

We want to remind your of our Monthly Breakfast & Lunch Gatherings, meant for you to meet with other parents and to learn from each other. Our next two gatherings will be on Wednesday, May 6, and June 3. Please feel free to join us at Grainfields on Circle Drive at 7 a.m. or bring your own lunch to FGCC at 12 p.m.

We hope to see you there!

Susan Enns, Kevin Wiens,
Jr. High Pastor Sr. High Pastor

Without our leaders we wouldn't have a youth ministry. Here's the amazing people that connect with your youth every week:

JR HIGH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Katarina Braybrook
Tyrel Braun
Stephanie Chernoff
Chris Enns
Maja Froese
Chrissy Foth
Logan Foth
Jon Friesen
Jocelyn Golding
Carson Heagy
Caitlin Jantzen
Craig Siemens
Curtis Strauss
Alexis Tindall

SR. HIGH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Levi Adams
James Cardinal
Lisa Cardinal
Heather Ens
Derek Funk
Silas Godard
Krista Goetz
Chelsea Morson
Mike Morson
Dori Neufeld
Rob Neufeld
Kendra Spiers
Chandra Styles
Kirk Styles
Luanne Wiens
Kiley Zdunich

PARENT RESOURCES

Join other parents of teens for this Focus on the Family event:

Thursday, April 30
7:00 p.m.

Lakeview Church
(South of Hwy 16 & Boychuk Drive)

For tickets & more info: www.turbulenceahead.ca



Read an Article:

Strong fathers in challenging times: How can dads have a lasting positive impact on their children? <http://www.cpyu.org/Page.aspx?id=351680>

Review some Movies:

Written so you can have a conversation about the themes and worldview the movie is communicating with your child: <http://www.realworldparents.com/movies>

Play a Game:

Gather your family around the computer and play this free game of Deal or No Deal: http://timschmoyer.com/ym-resources/freebie_friday/dond.swf

A NOTE FROM KEVIN - GRADUATION

Recently I was involved in a Senior Discernment for a 3rd year Bible School student. It was a privilege to be able to encourage him and challenge him as he finishes up his studies.

It's wonderful to hear about a student that is completing Bible School and wants to get involved in full-time vocational ministry. However, it's at this time of year that I start evaluating the success of previous years by asking the question **"How many of our former Sr. High students are still in church?"** Personally, I think we are doing a pretty good job, but there is always room for improvement.

I have been reading many articles lately about the transition for students from High School to college. There have been two main messages that I've heard that help high school students transition into college and remain in the church.

1) Students need to have a safe place to express their doubts while they are in high school. Kara Powell says, "The more college students felt that they had the opportunity to express their doubt while they were in high school, the higher levels of faith maturity and spiritual maturity [they had]." ¹ We need to be people that don't suppress our youth's doubts but graciously guide them in the midst of their struggles.

2) Students need to be engaged in intergenerational relationships within the church. The primary relationship needs to be with their parents. David Frazee says, "Teenagers pick up their religious cues from the surrounding adult culture. As a result... the religious world of teenagers is quite like that of the adult world."² If we expect our youth to be passionate followers of Christ, we need to be modeling that ourselves.

With this in mind, I am very optimistic about the future of the church however, there is still a lot of work for us to do if we are to ensure our grads remain part of the church.

1 http://www.christianpost.com/Education/Polls_reports/2006/08/survey-high-school-seniors-graduating-from-god-10/index.html
2 <http://fulleryouthinstitute.org/2008/12/a-reminder-of-an-often-forgotten-reality/>

A NOTE FROM SUSAN - LEARNING SOCIAL SKILLS

An unfortunate phenomenon is sweeping our teens and pre-teens that is causing inability to maintain face-to-face conversations, lack of confidence in public settings, and a loss of awareness of ones surroundings. If a teacher or another trusted adult told you that your child was suffering from these anti-social skills, you would likely be worried. However, many are encouraging these skills in their children.



That statement may sound extreme, but by allowing our teens to have cell phones, without teaching them any etiquette or social skills along with it, we are doing just that. As Jan Faul MED writes **"Technological changes lead to social change, but there's always a lag.**

While members of society are busy using cell phones, manners for doing so need to reflect this increased use...The convenience of cell phones has led many to become lazy and to lose awareness of themselves, others, and their surroundings: Try to avoid this phenomenon with your kids." ¹

Kevin & I have experienced the impact of cell phones in both the Jr. & Sr. High youth groups. Although they can be quite useful for connecting with parents and friends, they can also be used as tools for distraction, avoidance, and, at their worst, bullying. We want to encourage you to talk to your kids about their cell use, and maybe even set some ground rules for when it is appropriate to leave their phone in their pocket. This could enable your child to have a better understanding of their own surroundings and improve their social and communication skills.

Some good information and suggestions can be found in the articles at the following links (also accessible through the parents page at groveyouth.com/jrhigh):

- 1) "Teaching Kids Cell Phone Etiquette: <http://www.parents.com/teens-tweens/behavior-responsibilities/responsibilities/teaching-kids-cell-phone-etiquette>
- 2) "Cell Phone Etiquette" <http://www.brooksgibbs.com/apps/articles/default.asp?articleid=46404&columnid=3473>

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR (AND BUDGET)

Check www.groveyouth.com for details

Sr. High

- May 9 - Ignition (Epicentre) @ CUC - \$10
- May 26 - Last youth night before summer
- June 5-7 - I-40 Grad Retreat - Free

Jr. High

- May 29 - Gr. 8 Celebration (an event for Gr. 7&8's to celebrate the Gr. 8's moving into Gr. 9)
- June 5 - Gr. 6 Inauguration Celebration (& last Jr. High night before summer)

Question of the Month

Does your family pray together, other than meal times?

Send your answers to susan@forestgrovecc.com or kevin@forestgrovecc.com