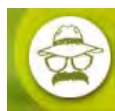




Keeping your kids safe in the internet age



Is it possible to guard our children's hearts and minds in this Internet age? In talking with an adult last week, he was doing a search for soccer equipment and up popped a display of scantily-dressed women advertising something much different. What's a parent to do?

Our suggestion would be to make sure you are at the upcoming Al Menconi seminars Sunday, September 28th. Al, a nationally recognized speaker on the affects of the media on our culture, will be speaking at both morning services at Damascus Community Church (8:30 & 11 AM). At 4:30 PM, Al will be back speaking on *Keeping Kids Safe in the Internet Age*; this is a parents-only session. Following a dinner break, Al will return for the final presentation for teens and their parents – *But It Doesn't Affect Me!*, at 6:30 PM.

Some excerpts from Al's very practical presentations – "If your child goes online, plays online games, visits chat-rooms or social networks such as *MySpace* and *Facebook*, you NEED to have clear guidelines for him to follow. What is acceptable and what isn't? What should he do if someone he doesn't know contacts him (or her)?"

"What are your Internet guidelines? Are they clear? What are the consequences if he/she goes

beyond his/her limits?"

"Your children aren't the enemy, but you need to know if they are 'playing with the enemy.' I always tell parents that they need to treat their children in the same way President Reagan treated the Soviet Union. Trust and verify. You need to trust your children, but you also need to have a means to verify that trust."

"It is important that you get to know about all your child's Internet choices. Here are ways you can do that... If you need more help in this area, I suggest that you get the very helpful DVD produced by *Healthy Habits* videos at <http://www.internetsafety.com/safe-eyes/>."

You will not want to miss these free seminar presentations to help equip you to protect your child. Al's unique approach is teach you how to teach your children **how** to think biblically, not just **what** to think (does that sound familiar?). He will help you develop practical guidelines to communicate

biblical standards to your children, *and* he will help you respond biblically to today's entertainment concerns such as pornography, predators, MySpace, spam, music, movies, video games, and all things Internet.

If this sounds like it would be useful, helpful, and encouraging, then you need to attend these free seminars. This is part of our mission, to help equip you to parent biblically. These presentations will be a significant step in that direction. Al Menconi, Sunday, September 28th, 8:30 and 11 AM (Damascus Community Church services), 4:30 (parents only – auditorium) and 6:30 (parents and teens – auditorium). If you have any questions, please visit Al's website at www.AlMenconi.com.



Back-to-school parents' evening

"This was a great way to share school policies and operating procedures! Very clever!" "Another great back-to-school event!" "What a talented group of kids we have here!"

These and other comments expressed the amazement and delight at our annual Back-to-School Parent gathering Friday, September 12th. Utilizing an entirely new format, our parents enjoyed skits and video presentations put together by our seniors covering *Scrip*, RenWeb, and following the drop-off/pick-up patterns. Not only were they very humorous, but they got the message across very clearly. Teacher introductions also moved in to the digital age with fast clips of each staff member, in action. Volunteers were recruited for *Scrip*, Friday Feast, field trip drivers, clubs, and more. A video clip of the upcoming Al Menconi seminar was seen along with a

hilarious excerpt featuring Christian comedian Tim Hawkins (check out his website www.TimHawkins.net). Tim will be with us for our spring dinner, Saturday, March 14, 2009, to benefit our Damascus Education Foundation student financial assistance fund. The evening culminated with parents visiting their children's classes, meeting and talking with their teachers. 2008-2009 DCS Family Directories and other important hand-outs were distributed.

We are excited about this, our 34th year. Thanks for being a vital part of Damascus Christian School.



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Free money! Got Scrip?

Scrip is just like cash; it is a dollar to dollar exchange...

Dyan Murphy and her *Scrip* helpers are up and at it for the 2008-2009 school year. Dyan oversees our very active *Scrip* program. Here is how it works. You order *Scrip* each week from dozens of local businesses and services. These vendors then give back a portion of their profits to Damascus Christian School! Over the course of the year, DCS receives literally thousands of dollars of "free money" as our parents, grandparents, and friends purchase *Scrip*. This "extra, free money" is used directly to benefit our students – each full-time teacher received \$100 and part-time teachers \$50 to do their back-to-class supplies shopping before the start of this school year. Other purchases have included training seminars for teachers, classroom teaching supplies, and much more.

Scrip is just like cash; it is a dollar to dollar exchange - \$10 gift card for \$10. You buy *Scrip* gift cards for the items you normally purchase – groceries, clothing, home goods, movies, dinners, etc. You may shop at over

200+ local and national stores and restaurants (New Seasons, Haggen's, Safeway, Thriftway, Food 4 Less, Bed Bath & Beyond, JC Penney's, R.E.I., Burgerville, Claim Jumper, Izzy's, Old Spaghetti Factory, Subway, Sparky's Pizza, Barnes & Noble, Craft Warehouse, Aloha Coffee, Peet's Coffee, Jiffy Lube are just a few). There is no minimum order – you can order \$5 or \$50,000! Or more! Using *Scrip* can help you budget your money and plan ahead (we're sure Dave Ramsey loves this!). *Scrip* gift cards make the perfect gift for the holidays and other special events. You are able to complete your *Scrip* orders at home and send the completed form and check back to school with your child. *Scrip* orders are distributed on Fridays. Easy!!

With your *Scrip* orders, Damascus Christian School receives anywhere from 3% to 43% of your order back from the store. There is no additional money from you. Again, it's the stuff you buy every week. By using *Scrip*, you are able to do your regular shopping and benefit DCS!

Be sure to check for your *Scrip* order forms Monday afternoons. Complete your order and return it on Tuesdays for Friday distribution. If you have any questions, please contact Dyan Murphy. And thanks!

Oh, Dyan has some killer *Scrip* drawings periodically that allow those who order *Scrip* to qualify for a drawing for a free! *Scrip* gift card. Can you say, Starbucks?

Got Scrip?

Businesses that help us

There are a number of businesses that have programs which reward the school when school parents shop there. Check out the following: Albertson's, Office Depot (DCS ID number 70083425), Safeway, and Target. There may be others. Ask at the Customer Service desk. And thanks.

Lost and needs-to-be-claimed stuff

We are amazed! Stupified! Overwhelmed! Flummoxed!

At what? At stuff! Beautiful, expensive clothes, gym wear, shoes, coats, lunch containers, sleeping bags!, notebooks, backpacks, etc., etc., etc. Tons of beautiful, expensive stuff is left by DCS students each week on the

outside racks, in the gym, in classrooms, kitchen, outside, and everywhere!

Rather than stockpile it, several years ago we instituted a one week keep policy. If this beautiful, expensive stuff is not picked up by Fridays, it goes to a charitable cause. We hate to do it, but there

is too much for us to hold on to. Please ask you son or daughter to check the *Lost and Gone* box if you are missing anything. Chances are, they will find it there. Help train your child to be good stewards of what the Lord has entrusted to their care. Otherwise it will be **Lost and Gone...**



Soccer kicks off season

Our season opener league varsity soccer game kicks off Monday, September 22nd, 4:15 PM, on our home turf (Happy Valley Park) with Horizon Christian School. Come on out and support our Eagles!

Other soccer games not to miss - Monday, Sept. 29th vs.

Corbett HS, Monday, Oct. 6th vs. Portland Christian, Thursday, Oct. 9th vs. Columbia Christian and Thursday, Oct. 16th vs. Portland Adventist. All games are at 4:15 PM. See our full soccer schedule on our school website, www.damascuschristianschool.org!

Check out our volleyball and cross country schedules as well. **Go Eagles!!**

