



Renuntio

No nobler training exists but that which cherishes the good, the beautiful, and the true, thus producing disciples of knowledge and lovers of wisdom.

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Parents Are Failing Our Children With Technology

Computers, cellphones and tablets are turning into parents and babysitters. More often than not parents are keeping the kids quiet in restaurants or grocery stores by making sure the child has some electronic device in his/her hands to keep the child entertained. Children are coming to school not as children anymore, but as little robots who have trouble communicating, lack problem solving skills, have little self-control, inability to focus, and lack motor skills.

Do I hate technology? No. I am currently using a computer to write this document. Have I used a cell phone today, checked my email, and messaged someone? Yes. Do I believe technology has benefits? Yes. Do I believe young children need to have technology in their lives? No.

I am starting my 17th year as an elementary teacher. Change is always happening and in education, new theories and curriculum seem to come up way too often. The nice thing about the last 7 years at Xavier is my curriculum hasn't changed much; unfortunately, the students have.

In my kindergarten classroom my students enjoy our motor movement program. The students get a chance to practice throwing and catching balls and beanbags, walk across a balance beam, skip around the room, hop, walk up a ramp, jump rope, etc. What an eye opener this has been the last 5 years or so. So many students struggle with a good portion of the activities I ask them to do. Why is this? I believe it is because children are not told to go outside and play, but are instead allowed to stay inside and more often than not, use technology.

In kindergarten we get to use scissors. It is amazing how many students struggle with the fine motor skills of cutting a piece of

paper as well as holding a crayon or pencil the correct way. In the past few years the number of students who cannot cut with scissors seems to be growing. The little hands and fingers of these five year olds do not have the strength to open and close scissors or have the strength to hold a crayon and color with enough force to make a line on the paper. Why is this? I believe children are not doing enough activities to gain strength in their hands. Children are not building with Legos or playing with Playdoh so the muscles in their hands are not ready for what they need to accomplish in kindergarten. Instead children are busy pushing buttons or sliding their fingers across a touch screen, in essence not building the muscles needed for life.

The ability to communicate and to problem solve are essential life skills. Again, more and more children are coming to my classroom with less and less problem solving abilities. Children need to be taught the skills that are necessary to communicate with their peers in order to be able to solve problems. Parents are not fulfilling their job as parents in this area. I believe this goes straight back to technology, in that technology is becoming the babysitter and parents aren't taking the time to communicate with their children. Instead, children are left to solve problems on their own, but without guidance they fail. My frustration as a kindergarten teacher in this area is that I know this is a very important skill that must be taught in school, but I do not have enough time in the three hours allowed each day to make this a priority.

I believe that children are not getting the opportunity to build their bodies and brains to prepare them for life

(Cont. pg. 2)

THE XAVIER PROMISE

Xavier Classical Charter Schools are dedicated to providing a classical, academically rigorous, content-rich, liberal arts education, preparing students to excel in every duty and guiding them toward wisdom and virtue.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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- 12/19-1/2— **NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK**
- 1/3— **SCHOOL RESUMES**
- 1/3-5— Homework Club
- 1/10-12— Homework Club
- 1/31-2/2— Homework Club
- 2/4— **SKI CLUB 1:15 p.m.**
- 2/7-9— Homework Club
- 2/8— Regular Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 2/11— **SKI CLUB 10:45 a.m.**
- 2/14-16— Homework Club
- 2/17— Teacher In-Service **NO SCHOOL**
- 2/24— Twins Dress Up Day

WELCOME MRS. KRUSE

Mrs. Shannon Kruse is the Assistant Head of Schools at Xavier Charter School. She earned her Master of Education in Supervision and Administration from Arizona State University and her Master of Arts in Education from Grand Canyon University. Her Bachelor degree in Elementary Education and Christian Studies was also earned at Grand Canyon University where she served as an adjunct professor. Previously, she taught first grade in Phoenix, AZ. Additionally, in her time in Phoenix she has served as an instructional coach, classroom management coach, and an education consultant for the Cartwright school district.

Mrs. Kruse has been happily married for six years and has two beautiful children. She is very involved with her church family and values strong community social connections. Exploring outdoor Idaho with her family is important and she enjoys target shooting.

Parents are failing their children with technology cont.

Many adults have learned how to keep kids quiet, but quiet computer time is not the solution. Quiet time isolates children and doesn't give them the opportunity to be physically active, to learn to problem solve with peers, or communicate with others.

Tami Ditlefsen, Kindergarten Teacher



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND HAVE A BLESSED TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. SEE YOU ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 3!

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH

Honesty—We never knowingly induce another to believe what is false. We are always truthful in what we say and do, regardless of the circumstances or consequences.

Jan. 3 — *“Honesty is more than not lying. It is truth telling, truth speaking, truth living, and truth loving.”* ~James E. Faust (American religious leader, lawyer, politician, b.1920-2007)

Jan. 10 — *“No legacy is as rich as honesty.”* ~William Shakespeare (English poet, playwright, actor, b.1706-1790)

Jan. 17 — *“Honest hearts produce honest actions.”* ~Brigham Young (Latter Day Saints leader, b. 1801-1877)

Jan. 24 — *“Honest shines like a light through the eyes.”* ~Alexander Pope (English poet, b. 1688-1744)

WORDS for the season...

“Christmas— that magic carpet that wraps itself about us, that is something so intangible that is like a fragrance. It may weave a spell of nostalgia. Christmas may be a day of feasting, or of prayer, but always it will be a day of remembrance—a day in which we think of everything we have ever loved.”

**Arnold Wescott
(1757-1843)**