

PARENT UPDATE

coming alongside your family

KNOWNstudents :: AEBC Youth

KNOWNnews

January 2015

- ~Parent Lab, a new monthly event for parents, starts Feb. 15!
- ~Gone for Good, a new youth visitation program, starts next month!
- ~We're walking through Revelation on Wednesday nights. We're going deep!
- ~Text FOLLOW KNOWNSTUDENTS to 40404 for text alerts.
- ~For parent helps, visit antiocheastbc.com/youth!

Hello
Parents!

UPCOMING EVENTS

LoveLoud: Operation Roundup

On 02/21/15 from 10:00AM to 4:00PM

We want to reach out to every single student who's come through our youth ministry in the past year and invite them to come back. Lunch is on us! Drivers needed!

Winter Jam

On 03/21/15 from 10:00AM to 11:45PM

Winter Jam is an EPIC Christian music event! See jamtour.com for more info. Students will need \$10 cash and money for food. Bringing unchurched friends is STRONGLY encouraged! Drivers needed!

LoveLoud: 24JE

On 04/24/15 at 5:00PM to 04/25/15 at 5:00PM

During the 24-Hour Justice Experience, students will be immersed in some of the issues of injustice that plague our world and be equipped to do something about it. This is a free event! Adults needed!

SnapChat and the Ostrich Parent

By Jonathan McKee

You'd think the recent news about SnapChat would be enough to finally convince parents to step in and hit the DELETE button, right? So why is it 72 percent of parents are simply sticking their heads in the sand and just "hoping for the best"?

Most of us already knew this popular mobile app SnapChat was dangerous for young people. If you read my warnings about the app long ago, then you realized it was not only a convenient little tool for sexting, but it also provided teenagers with a false sense of "lack of accountability." The pictures "vanish"... don't they?

A recent lawsuit amongst the SnapChat creators has revealed even scarier facts about this social media tool. The creators (who turned out to be rather creepy) invented the app uniquely for sexting. And the status of these "vanishing" pictures is questionable. SnapChat says they delete the images right away, but there's more and more evidence that they don't. I wonder if that makes "Emily" think twice about snapping that revealing selfie and sending it to her boyfriend?

Social media expert Adam McLane stirred up quite a dust storm with his sobering post, *Why You Should Delete Snapchat*. Adam resolved, "I've never seen a more dangerous application targeting teenagers, specifically girls, than SnapChat." Are parents listening to this advice?

The majority of parents I've been talking with about this sound like the parents that internet security company McAfee surveyed this summer. In this study the bulk of parents claim to have had conversations about online safety (71%), but only a minority of kids confirm this to be true (44%). I frequently encounter these parents at my parent workshops. They convince themselves their kids are safe. I call these Ostrich parents, with their heads in the sand.

Do these parents forget what they were like when they were teenagers? Do they remember their own capacity to sneak? Today's kids probably aren't very different. 69% of the young people surveyed admitted they take measures to hide their online behavior from their parents.

I'm sure these parents would do something if they only knew... right?

Sadly, the same study revealed 74% of parents said, "they don't have the time or energy to keep up with everything their kids are doing, and 72% said they are overwhelmed by modern technology and just hope for the best." Hope for the best?

Really? That's all we got?

We need to pull our head out of the sand and begin having more conversations about some of these important decisions our teens and tweens are facing daily. Don't overreact, but interact. Have the conversation.

Today, for many parents, the conversation probably should start with SnapChat.