

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."
- Matthew 7:24 (NIV)

**TOP 10 BOX
OFFICE FILMS
WEEKEND OF
AUGUST 21-23
(SOURCE: Box Office
Mojo)**

1. **Inglourious Basterds**
2. **District 9**
3. **G.I. Joe - The Rise of Cobra**
4. **The Time Traveler's Wife**
5. **Julie & Julia**
6. **Shorts**
7. **G-Force**
8. **Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**
9. **The Ugly Truth**
10. **The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard**

**YOUTH CULTURE
HOT QUOTE**

"My happy weight changes. Sometimes I eat more; sometimes I play more. So I'll be different sizes all the time. When people talk about my weight, I'm like, 'You seem to have a problem with it; I don't. I'm fine!'"

- Singer Kelly Clarkson, *Self*, September 2009

SCHOOL'S IN!

Twenty years ago this month we watched our oldest child climb onto the school bus for the very first time. This year, our youngest child started his senior year of high school. So, for the very last time we've sent a child off for the first day of school. Over the years I've learned a lot about kids, school, and the positive ways that we can engage - to the Glory of God - with our kids' schools, teachers, coaches, and administrators. As you send your kids off to another year of school, consider enlisting these three suggestions over the course of the 2009-2010 school year.

First, learn as much as you can from those who serve your kids in school. Over the years I've increasingly realized that I didn't stop learning from my teachers on that day I graduated from high school. I've learned to tap into the experience and education of teachers and administrators who are spending six or more hours a day with the kids I know and love. By respecting their expertise and asking them questions, I have probably learned more from teachers as an adult, than I ever did as a kid. They have taught me about how kids learn, adolescent development, and character formation. Their access to kids gives them great insights into how our culture is changing and the unique issues, problems, challenges, and choices that our kids face everyday. While we certainly don't agree on everything, I've come to appreciate the wisdom and expertise of folks who in the end, equip me to be better at what I've been called to do.

CPYU TREND ALERT: COSMETIC SURGERY

A recent article in *USA Today* reports on some alarming shifts in relation to cosmetic surgery and children. According to the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, over one-hundred sixty-thousand children under the age of eighteen had cosmetic interventions during 2008. Many of those procedures were performed on children who needed cosmetic surgery to deal with cleft palates and other disfigurements. But a growing number of children went under the knife for non-medically necessary procedures designed to alter

BY WALT MUELLER, PRESIDENT, CPYU

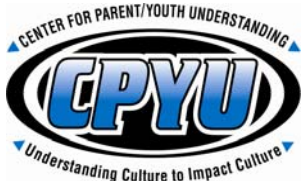
Second, there's a lot we can do to support those who work in our schools. Educators often tell me what a thankless job they have. We can start by thanking those in our community who have chosen to spend several hours a day teaching our kids. Many of them are tired, worn out, and weary from constant criticism and the difficulties of working with kids in a rapidly changing culture. Their job is incredibly challenging. Think about it. . . not only do they have to stay up-to-date on the latest educational developments, but they have to be culturally-savvy as well. The culture of their students is changing at breakneck speed. Once you've thanked them, offer to come alongside with no agenda other than to be an encouragement and support. Assume a Christ-like posture of grace, humility, integrity, excellence, and servanthood. Then offer to help out as a volunteer in the classroom, on the playground, in the lunchroom, or on the sidelines.

And third, pray for those who work in your local schools. Perhaps this is the greatest way to serve our schools. Sadly, our tendency is to criticize rather than intercede. Everyone working with our kids needs our prayers.

The Enemy plays everywhere. It's for that reason that we should be about the business of seeking to serve as a redemptive and encouraging presence in every nook and cranny of God's world. . . . including our schools.

their appearance in an effort to conform to our culture's changing standards of beauty.

These surgeries include breast augmentation, altering the shape of one's nose, and even Asian eye surgery to widen the appearance of eyes in people of Asian descent. At the root of many of these procedures could be a growing sense of vanity or insecurity. If we don't watch out, we might all get swept away by an obsession with outward appearance that is anything but Godly.



LATEST RESEARCH: HI-TECH CHEATING

Declining ethical standards and the development of digital communication technologies have combined in a manner that's leading many of our kids to find and embrace new ways to cheat in school. Cheating used to be seen as wrong. Now, cheating is seen by a growing number of children and teens to be morally neutral and anything but wrong.

A new national survey by the nonprofit group Common Sense Media has found that among middle and high school students, more than one in three admits to using a cell phone at least

once to cheat. More than half say they've cheated using the Internet. One in four students don't think that using cellphones and the Internet is cheating at all. Students cheat with cell phones by texting answers during a test, or by taking pictures of tests to send to other students.

The survey also found that parents are by and large clueless. Seventy six percent of parents said that cheating with cellphones happens in their kid's schools, but only three percent believed their kids were ever involved.



FROM THE WORD

As a parent of teens, you're no doubt aware of the many competing voices that exist in today's world, summoning our kids' allegiance. They cry out with a compelling ability to convince, encouraging kids to "Come and follow, come and follow, come and follow." All too often, our kids choose to follow voices other than the voice of the Savior.

Matthew 5-7 contains the words of Jesus known as The Sermon on the Mount. It is here that we find the most concise description of who Jesus wants his followers to be and what he wants them to do. As he brings his Sermon on the Mount to a conclusion, he utters words about hearing *and* doing. Jesus illustrates the difference between obedient and disobedient listeners through telling the parable of the two builders.

Those who choose not to heed Jesus' words by hearing *and* doing are likened to fools who are so ready to get on with life that they fail to dig deep and build a strong foundation. Those who heed Jesus' words to hear *and* do are wise, building their lives on a strong and secure foundation.

We know what comes next. Even though the houses look the same from the ground up, the weakness of one and the strength of the other are quickly exposed when the inevitable storms of life hit.

What kind of foundation sits at the base of your life? Your kids are watching. God is using the foundation they see in your life as the basis for the blueprint they will use, both now and into the future.

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kids and their world?



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IN THE NEWS: SHOPLIFTING

Shoplifting has reached epidemic proportions in our culture. Did you know that in 2008, ninety-two percent of all retailers were victims of shoplifting, and there were thirty-five billion dollars in shoplifting losses? These figures represent an eight percent rise over the previous year. Perhaps most alarming is that many shoplifting perpetrators are teens. Did you know that an estimated one in four teenagers has shoplifted?

Teens shoplift for a variety of reasons. In today's world, shoplifting is frequently no longer viewed

as a wrong behavior. Kid's shoplift in response to peer pressure, for the excitement, to save money, to get attention, and to be rebellious.

If your teen suddenly comes into lots of money or new possessions without explanation, you might want to investigate to see if they are, in fact, shoplifting. Parents, model appropriate behavior, teach proper ways to get what one wants, and be sure to explain that the God of the universe has said, "You shall not steal."

