

# Parenting in the 21st Century

Join us on Tuesday, October 25  
at 7:00 in the school library

Parenting has never been easy, but the 21st Century presents complications never before experienced. This leaves parents wondering about the “too muchness” that surrounds them and their children. There’s the too muchness inherent in TV programs, provocative music and very costly clothing as well as violent video games with a new electronic gadget marketed regularly to entice children. And what about Facebook and Twitter? How can parents protect children from harmful individuals without unduly frightening them? Then, there’s the whole dilemma of cell phones, which can be so helpful from a safety standpoint, but also so harmful. And what about texting?

Amy B. is a bright, energetic twelve year old girl, whose mother confiscated her cell phone after receiving a monthly bill of over \$700 for text messages. But Amy’s report card was an even bigger shock-2 D’s and an F in math! Mrs. B had noticed that Amy wasn’t as invested in her schoolwork and found out she was not only texting her friends during homework time, but often until 2am. When confronted, Amy spoke proudly of being so proficient at the keyboard that she could text others in the front pocket of her hoodie “without even looking.” She then laughingly added, “It’s addictive.”

Then there’s the busyness of children’s after school schedules with weary parents driving their offspring from one activity to another. Can this possibly be good for children? One mother was floored when her eight year old complained of stress. “I didn’t even know what stress was when I was eight!” So, how much is too much? Please join us for an evening of thought-provoking discussion as we explore *your* parenting concerns, be they step-parenting; how to talk with children about death or divorce; how to deal with your child’s separation or social anxiety; homework and bedtime struggles, messy rooms, bullying, the pros and cons of medications such as Ritalin etc. We are here to serve you and will talk about whatever you like.

Victoria Todd, Child Psychoanalyst  
Kenna Mycek, Child Therapist

