



THE GUIDEPOST

The 7 HABITS are Here!

sance initiative (learn more in this issue) as well as District Supervisor of Special Projects Ms Margaret Doran. A leading expert in the

field, Mr Gary McGuey will lead both workshops. Mr McGuey, a former educator and athletic director has spent the past decade traveling to all 50 states, as well as internationally. He has visited thousands of schools and has worked with administrators, educators and students. Gary has been a student of individual and organizational dynamics most of his career and is very passionate about the teaching of principles that empower people to govern themselves more harmoniously. Gary created the first curriculum related to the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens. A highly respected speaker who brings the rare mix of knowledge, humor and wisdom to each client engagement. "Learn it, Live it, Give it!" is the message Gary conveys to his audiences, through a variety of hands-on, interactive sessions, participants are encouraged and challenged to continue the process of leadership development. He is a sought after keynote speaker on topics related to leadership, team building and student empowerment. He has successfully applied the principles he advocates in a variety of activities, ranging from a fulfilling family life to developing organizational effectiveness.

The 7 Habits of Highly Successful Teens are as follows...

Habit 1: Be Proactive®

Take responsibility for your life.

Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind®

Define your mission and goals in life.

Habit 3: Put First Things First®

Prioritize and do the most important things first.

Habit 4: Think Win-Win®

Have an "everyone-can-win" attitude.

Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood®

Listen to people sincerely.

Habit 6: Synergize®

Work together to achieve more.

Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw®

Renew yourself regularly.

**Wednesday October 15, 2008
@ 6:30pm in the AHS PAC**

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Life for teens today is no longer a playground. It's a jungle out there, with tough choices, peer pressure, personal insecurities, and anxiety about what others think. Then consider feelings of depression, inferiority, and jealousy of others' successes, plus self-destructive behaviors such as pornography, vandalism, and gangs. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens®* workshop from FranklinCovey, based on the best-selling book of the same name by Sean Covey and the No. 1 best-selling business book *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen R. Covey, gives young people a set of proven tools to deal successfully with real life.

Using Sean Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, students are given a powerful overview of the 7 Habits® in their language. In the one-day workshop, which will take place at Absegami on Thursday October 16, students will learn the time-tested principles of the 7 Habits and how to apply them to the tough issues and life-changing decisions they face. Utilizing full student participation plus humor, anecdotes, videos, real-life scenarios, and relevant interactive exercises, students will laugh while they learn with a newfound belief in their own abilities.

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens are essentially seven characteristics that happy and successful teens the world over have in common. Habits 1, 2, and 3 deal with self-mastery called the "Private Victory®." Habits 4, 5, and 6 deal with relationships and teamwork, or the "Public Victory®." The last habit, Habit 7, is the habit of renewal. It feeds all of the other six habits. The training provides students with a step-by-step framework for boosting self-image, building friendships, resisting peer pressure, achieving goals, improving communication and relationships with parents, and much more. The habits build upon each other and foster behavioral change and improvement from the inside out.

The Absegami Performing Arts Center will host an informational workshop for Parents with their children on Wednesday October 15 at 6:30pm. The program is sponsored by Absegami's Peer Mediation group, the new Renais-

**THE ABSEGAMI PARENTS
GUIDANCE NEWSLETTER**

FALL 2008

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Technology 101 for Parents

Dr. Jeri-Lynn Gatto, Principal

High School students embrace technology with great enthusiasm. Cell phones, iPods and laptops are critical to their perception of their survival on the planet. They communicate constantly with each other and believe that if they can't Instant Message each other or check their email they may not make it through the day. I say this with a touch of humor. As a parent I have been on the receiving end of my own son and daughter's frustration with me when I have dared to ask them to coach me through the intricacies of text messaging. As a principal I work diligently to become conversant with the technology available to classroom teachers. The best high school teachers I have ever

watched are those who have dared to venture into the language and culture of their students in an effort craft lessons that are relevant and "with-it". The culture of technology that our students thrive in changes daily and we race to keep up.

Where do we find ourselves in relation to technology in the 2008-2009 school year at Absegami? Thanks to federal and state grants there are Smart Boards in seven classrooms at Absegami. Smart Boards are the new wave of the concept of the blackboard; however, these white boards allow students and teachers to interact with the board as if it were a giant touch screen that also connects to the Internet. The technology allows students to collect information and data quickly and allows the teacher to more efficiently use the forty-five minute class period. Not all technology is viable in school however. As you know, all personal electronic devices are off limits during the school

day and are expected to be stored in a locker. Obviously, cell phones going off during class would be a constant distraction to the learning environment and therefore we are strict about enforcing the policy in place regarding personal electronic devices.

Ultimately, our goal is balance. Know that we will always work diligently to integrate the latest technology into curriculum and instruction, but never at the expense of the chaos that would occur if there were no rules or structure in place. Speak with teachers and administrators on the best uses of technology in the high school environment. I invite you to stop by the Distance Learning Lab in Room 508 and try a Smart Board for yourself. You will love the technology available at 'Gami!