



A must-read for parents and teachers

Kids' world via screens

MICHELLE DENNIS

Tech-Savvy Parenting – A Guide to Raising Safe Children in a Digital World by Nikki Bush and Arthur Goldstuck, in one of the most informative, educational and interesting books I have read this year.

Nikki Bush, whose name will be familiar to readers of her '21st Parenting column in ZO Woman', is a recognised and revered modern parenting expert. She has also written, *Future-proof Your Child* and *Easy Answers to Awkward Questions*.

Arthur Goldstuck is head of the World Wide Worx research organisation that provides the most widely accepted statistics for Internet use.

He is also an award-winning writer, analyst and commentator on Internet, mobile and business and consumer technologies.

The beauty of this collaboration, according to Nikki is, '... this book contains a mix of both mum and dad stuff as well as high-touch parenting insights,

combined with high-tech digital speak.'

Digital natives and the immigrants

The book begins by putting it all into perspective. This generation are referred to as the 'digital natives – born with a computer mouse or gaming console on one hand and a cellphone in the other.' The parents are referred to as 'digital immigrants to this strange new world'.

Children, say the authors, have been digitally nurtured and are, therefore, wired for technology.

However, they are still flesh and blood and need human nurturing and face-to-face interactions – especially from their parents. It is also emphasised that nothing can replace 'real-life experiences with real-time consequences'.

Adapt to their world

Like there are rules in the real world, parents have to teach children about the rules, choices and consequences in the digital world.

The bottom line is that we have

to adapt to their world, which is always on with information and entertainment available instantly. And the point is made quite strongly that the children's digital lives are, in fact, preparing them for the future workplace.

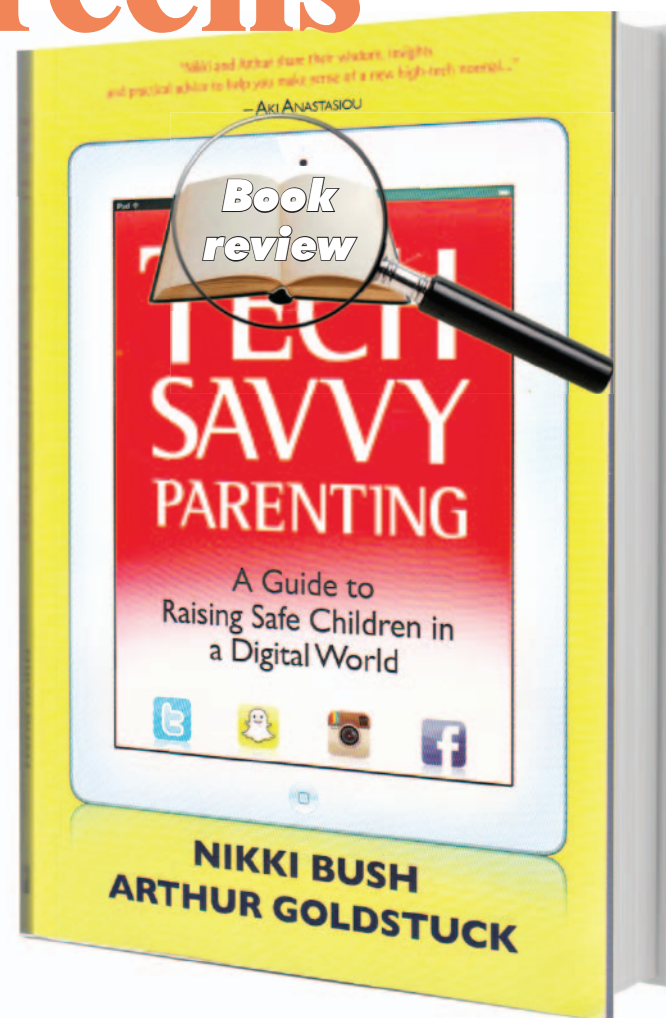
The book states that an estimated 60% to 70% of future jobs had not yet been invented.

It's the parent's role to teach their children to make safe choices regarding their media usage as there is a dark side where abusive activities are found.

Tipping point reached

A particularly interesting chapter is Chapter 6, 'The Evolution Of Learning', which informs how our schools are lagging behind the changing world and that therefore, the modern child battles to relate to an aged education system which was created 100 years ago during the industrial era.

This review is but the tip of the ice-berg, but as the tipping point of technology overtaking our lives has been reached, it is vital you read this book to become a 'tech-savvy parent'.



CALENDAR

Events

November

15 Side by Side will perform at The George Hotel in eShowe at 8pm. Phone 035 4744919.

26 - 28 Fantasyland at Empangeni Civic Centre at 7pm. Tickets available at the door or from Michelle 071 8771441.

27 Zululand Hospice Tree of Light at the City of uMhlathuze municipal gardens at 6pm.

28 - 29 Honorary Officers iMfolozi Birding Weekend at iMfolozi Game Reserve. Contact Charlotte Pollard on charlottepollard10@gmail.com or 071 8455079.

29 Dutch Reformed Church Meerensee Christmas Light Market from noon until 8pm. Phone Ronel Venter 082 8220573 or ronelventer1@telkomsa.net.

29 The Chester Missing Roadshow at Umfolozi Casino Resort from 7pm. Book online www.umfolozicasino.co.za

30 Suzuki Toy Run handover at the Zululand Observer office in Empangeni between 8 - 9am.

December

6 Christmas Street Market in Hluhluwe (Indigenous Kreationz) from 9am until late. Phone Wayne 082 6422259.

15 The Soil album launch at the Imbizo Hall, Empangeni. Contact Sihle Mvuyane 0723646444

20 Titan the Robot will be at Boardwalk Inkwazi Shopping Centre. 20 SA comedian, Riaad Moosa will be at Umfolozi

Casino Resort. Book tickets online www.umfolozicasino.co.za.

31 uThungulu Last Dance at the Richards Bay Sports Complex. Contact Siphon Ndaba 0789019997



CALENDAR

Regular meetings

• Zululand Hospice Open Day is on the 1st Saturday of the month at the offices in Empangeni. Contact 035 7724910.

• Emp Child and Family Care car boot sale on second Saturday of the month. There will be breyani, homemade salami and Russian sausages on sale. The market will be opposite the Zululand Observer office. Contact Ron on 035 7925358 or June 035 7723284.

• Meditation classes, in eShowe at 16 Brockwell Street on Thursdays from 1.15pm to 1.45pm and 5.30pm to 7pm. Phone 031 7646193 or info@mediateinurban.org.

• Mtunzini Farmers' Market, Anchor Church, 5 William Street from 9 - 11am, every Sat. Phone Nicki 083 4416434.

• Emp Community Policing Forum (CPF), every 3rd Tues of the month at 5.30pm at the Emp Civic Centre/library hall. Contact Zilindile Masango 082 5916302.

• R/Bay SPCA Market and Paws and Claws tea garden, last Saturday of every month. Phone 035 7532086.

• R/Bay Floral Art Club meetings/demonstrations/workshops will be held on 3rd Thursday of every month, except December, when meeting will be held on the second Thursday. Contact Elizabeth

Miller on 084 7907511.

• Praying for police - Inter-denominational monthly prayer meeting 2nd Wed of the month, SAPS Emp inner garden, 7.45-8.15am. Phone Janine Stone 035 7725083.

• R/Bay WI monthly meetings, every 4th Wed, 9am, AGS Church Hall, Wonderboom St, Arboretum. Contact Bev Pellow 035 7895377.

• Emp/Inkanyeni WI monthly meeting, 2nd Sat of each month, 2pm, Leisure Gardens, Emp. Info: 082 7401848.

• Mzingazi WI monthly meetings, 1st Wed each month, 5pm, R/Bay Library Hall. Contact Elizabeth Miller on 084 7907511 or 035 7533048.

• Cancer Support Group monthly meeting 1st Wed, 6.30pm, Bay Hospital boardroom. Contact Yolande 035 7806123 or Lifeline 035 7892472.

• Melmoth CANSA Support Group monthly meeting, 1st Tues, 2pm, Municipality Council Chambers.

• eShowe Bird Club & Wildlife meetings, 1st Tues every month. Hugh Chittenden 035 742276.

• The Business Women's Association networking Buzz Hour meets regularly at R/Bay, Emp, eShowe, Mtubatuba, eSikhaheni and Mtunzini. Phone 035 7725518.

• Rehabilitated drug users' support group, R/Bay: Fri and Sat. Brackenham: Fri 7-8pm at Bay Primary School, Fishtail Rd; Arboretum: Sat 7-8pm at AGS Church. Contact Ps Christo 083 6458772 or Matthew 074 4384980.

• Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Support Group monthly meeting. Phone Lee-Anne on 035 7923491.

• Umfolozi Garden Club monthly meetings. Phone Jillian Nel 082 9267654.

• R/Bay Garden Club monthly meeting, 3rd Wed morning. Eileen Russell 035 7534250.

• Golden Oldies, every Fri 9.30am, Empangeni Civic Centre. Elaine 035

7995013 or 082 4318110.

• Richards Bay Senior Citizens, every Wed, Brackenham Community Hall. Contact Ben Naicker 082 5756922.

• Golden Years Club, every Wed 9.30am-11.30am, Richards Bay Bowling Club. Contact Lynn Addyman 083 2325129.

• Richards Bay SAVF, every Tues 10am, Richards Bay Ski Boat Club. Phone Louise Erasmus 083 6527833.

• Club 60 - Empangeni & Richards Bay, 1st Sunday of the month, 11am. Hannes Booysen 083 4150247.

• MOTHS - Uqobolwayo Shellhole (Empangeni), every first Tues of the month, 7pm for 7.30pm. Old Bill Theuns Stroebel 083 6377447.

• Fish Eagle Bonsai Kai, every 1st Sat of the month, 2pm. Phone Betsy de Jong 072 2074079.

• Zululand Bonsai Society, every second Sat of the month, various venues. Barry on 083 3249392.

• Ballroom dancing every Mon, Wed and Fri, Nordale Hall, Mtubatuba. Inspector S E Nxumalo 083 5104423.

• Tues and Thurs at Umfolozi Farm, 6pm. Phone Leigh 035 5501430.

• Mtunzini Residents' Association (MRA) Twilight Bowls, every Friday 5pm, all welcome from nine to 90 years old, R7pp, Mtunzini Bowling Club. Phone Skuins 035 3401217.

• MRA Guardian Angels Social Afternoon for the elderly, every Wednesday, all welcome - games afternoon from 12.30pm to 4pm, at Mtunzini Anglican Church Hall. Contact Sheelagh Fosse 083 6257168.

• Richards Bay Moms' Group, every Wednesday, 10am - noon, coffee shop, Outlook Church, corner Bulbul Bend & Barbet Bow, Birdswood.

• MOTHS - Wa Tshe Tsha (Gingindlovu), every first Monday of the month at 7pm. Contact 083 6285668.