

# DANGER IN THE HIGH-TECH CLASSROOM

by Jeannie Georges, an education researcher in Indiana

As quickly as the tech companies calculated their possible profits — if every child in every school had their personal computer tablet — computers were promoted as the latest and greatest tool for teachers to teach and students to learn. Research has been available for decades showing that a real live person is always the best teacher. But, facts and research take a back seat when politicians and corporations are driving the bus headed for more money and power. Technology in the classroom is estimated to top \$60 billion by 2018, which does not include the profit from the easy collection of data that will surely make the \$60 billion look small.

Educational researchers are trying to get state and federal legislators to look at some of the research regarding the use of technology in the classroom. Legislators have the opportunity to safeguard students from the “growing and compelling mountain of clinical and neurological research showing that these devices are harming kids in ways that parents never anticipated.” A new book, *Glow Kids*, by Nicholas Kardaras, Ph.D., spells out the dangers.

Dr. Kardaras discusses the electromagnetic field emitted by screens and cell phones, the psychological dam-

age, the actual brain damage, and the social problems that follow long exposure to screens, plus he also gives solutions for those addicted. Everyone should be aware of the dangers lurking behind the “glow screen.”

Do you remember when we were warned that we should not let children watch too much television? The warning signs were fixed glassy eyes, mouth slightly open, and no response when called. Now, all ages are directing their complete attention to that glow screen in their hands. But the new glow screen effect has gone way beyond that of television.

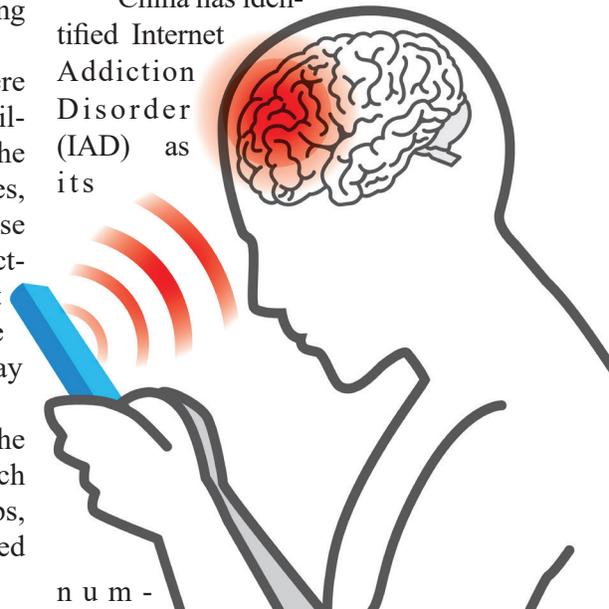
The tech companies are hiring the best and brightest to do brain research in order to construct the phones, apps, and social sites to get the user hooked and addicted. Addicted? Yes.

Consider these results from too much computer screen use. Dr. Kardaras says, “glowing screens — like those of iPads — are as stimulating to the brain’s pleasure center and as able to increase levels of dopamine... as much as sex does. This brain-orgasm effect is what makes screens so addictive for adults, but even more so for children with still-developing brains....(An) ever-increasing amount of clinical research correlates screen tech with psychiatric disorders like ADHD, addiction, anxiety, depression, increased aggression and even psychosis....Excessive screen exposure can neurologically damage a young person’s developing brain in the same way that cocaine addiction can.”

Dr. Kardaras writes that for a child, being hooked on tech is similar to a drug addiction. “Ironically, while we’ve declared a so-called War on Drugs, we’ve allowed this virtual drug — which... (the) director of neuroscience at UCLA calls ‘electronic cocaine’....and which Chinese

researchers call “electronic heroin” to slip into the homes and classrooms of our youngest and most vulnerable, seemingly oblivious to any negative effects.”

“China has identified Internet Addiction Disorder (IAD) as its



number-one

health crisis...and South Korea has opened 400 tech addiction rehab facilities and given every student, teacher and parent a handbook warning them of the potential danger of screen and technology...(I)n the United States, clueless and sometimes corrupt school bureaucrats are pushing to put glowing tablets — yes, electronic cocaine — into the hands of every kindergartner,” writes Dr. Kardaras.

Plenty of older people are using computers without having used them in school. They even used them when there was no hard drive and when they had to program their computers because there were no programs to purchase. Today’s computer is nothing more than ‘monkey-see, monkey-do’.

The software in use today will be out-dated tomorrow and you have to re-learn. So, what’s the hurry for a child to learn an out-dated program today when riding bikes and reading books should never be out-dated? 

## EAGLE FORUM

President: *Eunie Smith*

Report Editor: *Cathie Adams*

**Yearly membership \$25.00**

Extra copies available:

1/\$1, 50/\$10, 100/\$20

**200 W. Third St., Ste. 502**

**Alton, IL 62002 (618) 433-8990**

Eagle@EagleForum.org

EagleForum.org