



Snow Days **by Joe Gandolfo**

The magic of a snow day! The northern half of the State of Georgia finally received snow. When you are a kid living in Georgia, waking up in the morning to a blanket of snow on the ground means having school canceled. For parents, it may require some juggling of the daily schedule to accommodate the free day Mother Nature gave to our children.

As I was getting my two boys dressed and ready for an early play day in the snow, I also needed to contact my boss at Georgia Tech. I tried voice mail, but his voice mailbox was full. E-mail was my next option.

As I was writing the e-mail, my oldest son came into my home office wanting me to take him and his younger brother outside to sled. I told him that first I needed to send this email to Georgia Tech, since GT's voice mailbox was "full".

He asked, "*What's a voice mailbox*". I answered explaining, "*It is like the mailbox at the end of our driveway, but instead of it holding letters, a voice mailbox holds recorded voice messages.*"

He asked "*where is the voice mailbox?*" I paused, trying to seize this learning moment and said "*a voice mailbox is inside computers at phone companies.*" He walked around to the backside of the monitor, looked inside of it for a few moments, and said very confidently "*I can see the voice mailbox!*" I smiled, paused for a moment, and nodded.

In his mind, he was absolutely certain that he understood, but little did he realize how much he did not understand. I wondered if I really understood the power that lied beneath – the technology in this case. I was reminded again of what I see in others – teens, athletes, parents, companies and audiences, as well as forget sometimes in myself – the power that lives in each of us to powerfully impact our situation, our dreams, and our lives.

My son thought he understood, but what was more important is that he was trying to understand. He was trying to embrace the power of technology, *the potential!* Potential, just like in each and every one of us, usually much more than we realize and understand, but right there for us to embrace and use each day.

Listen to Joe's free daily podcast – ***Teen Success Radio*** – available on iTunes.
His new book ***The Greatest Teenage Myth in the World*** is now available @ www.JosephGandolfo.com or www.TheGreatestTeenageMythInTheWorld.com

Joe Gandolfo is on a mission to ***champion the greatest commodity in today's world – our youth, teenagers, young adults and college students***, and to rally, strengthen and energize the adults – parents, educators, mental health professionals and organizations - who work with and care about our greatest commodity in the world.

Joe works as a ***professional speaker, success coach, seminar leader motivational counselor and author***. He brings 20 years experience working with youth, teen-agers, student-athletes, professional athletes, adults, parents, educators, public and private schools, organizations and associations.

His clients have included: *Georgia Tech Athletic Association, Rockdale County Schools, Cobb County Schools, Cobb Teen Leadership, YMCA, Childcare Resource Network, University of Clemson, University of West Georgia, PGA of America, Milwaukee Brewers, Coca-Cola, SouthCoast Hospitals, Owens-Corning and MPI Georgia Chapter.*

He has been an adjunct professor at Georgia Tech (1996-2000) and Georgia State (2005-06). He was on staff at the Homer Rice Center for Sports Performance (2000-07). He has had a private consulting practice since 1991.

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