

March 1, 2019

A MESSAGE FROM DELTA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Good Evening Delta School District parents/guardians,

Delta School District would like to take this opportunity to talk about **safe Internet and smartphone/personal digital device use**.

The Delta School District believes access and use of technology is an integral component of current learning and working environments. However, the potential for misuse of the Internet and smartphone apps exists, even with due diligence. Sophisticated search capabilities and easy access to web sites provide a wide range of information at your child's fingertips.

It is an unfortunate reality that unsolicited contact with students by strangers with questionable motives is a concern, particularly with apps like Snapchat, Instagram, and/or WhatsApp, or via video streaming sites like Youtube.

Did You Know?

*Every second on Youtube 135 hours of video content is uploaded
and every day 46,759 hours of video is watched.*

Sending or receiving inappropriate information (e.g. racist, slanderous, pornographic, threatening, sexist, confidential, etc.) or using chat rooms/apps for this purpose is possible given the sheer volume of content and number of users around the world.

Throughout the school year, our teachers and Learning Services staff, as well as our DPD Student Liaison Officers (SLO), work with our students about safe and responsible use of digital devices and the Internet. In January, Safer Schools Together visited many of our schools to speak with students about safe use of digital technology (apps, internet, online videos, games).

We will continue to bring this valuable information into classrooms throughout the year.

KEY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

- **We have attached an INFORMATION BULLETIN with information and resources on how to talk with your kids about these important issues.** The bulletin is below.

We ask that you remind your child TELL A TRUSTED ADULT IMMEDIATELY if they are ever approached online and asked personal/invasive/inappropriate questions.

Our hope is that by having continued open conversations with parents, students, and our community we can continue to work together to keep our kids safe.

If you have questions or concerns, we encourage you to reach out to your school Principal or counsellor.

Sincerely,



Doug Sheppard
Superintendent

INFORMATION BULLETIN

INTERNET SAFETY



WHAT ARE THE CONCERNS ABOUT INTERNET ACCESS?

The Delta School Board believes access and use of technology is an integral component of current learning and working environments. However, the potential for misuse of the Internet exists, even with due diligence. Sending or receiving inappropriate information (e.g. racist, slanderous, pornographic, threatening, sexist, confidential, etc.) or using chat rooms or polling booths for this purpose is possible.

Sophisticated search capabilities and easy access to web sites provide a wide range of information at your child's fingertips. Internet contact with students by strangers with questionable motives is also a major concern, particularly with chat rooms.

WHAT IS THE DELTA SCHOOL DISTRICT DOING TO REDUCE THE RISK OF INAPPROPRIATE USE OF TECHNOLOGY?

Internet access for all schools in B.C. is provided by the Provincial Learning Network (PLNet), a network supported from Victoria. PLNet provides virus protection service and limited blocking of inappropriate sites, such as pornography.

SCHOOL DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES

- » To provide age appropriate instruction for students on responsible, appropriate use of the Internet.
- » To make every reasonable attempt to ensure appropriate use of the Internet by students.
- » To investigate suspected misuse and provide consequences for misuse of district resources.
- » To encourage parents and students to complete a Technology Access and Use Agreement form as part of mandatory consent for student access to the Internet at school.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- » To follow guidelines set out by the Delta School District and his/her/their parents regarding Internet use.
- » To make responsible decisions around his/her/their use of technology and the Internet.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- » Instruct your child to never give out identifying information—home address, school name, or telephone number—in a public message such as chat or bulletin boards and be sure you are dealing with someone you and your child know and trust before providing personal information via e-mail.
- » To instruct your child regarding boundaries of what is considered acceptable use of the Internet by your family.
- » To be aware of the risks in accessing the Internet.
- » To emphasize to your child the importance of personal safety in Internet use and that people online may not be who they seem. Because you can't see or even hear the person, it would be easy for someone to misrepresent him or herself. Thus, someone indicating that "she" is a "12-year-old girl" could in reality be a 40 year-old man.
- » To monitor and supervise your child's use of the Internet when not in a school setting.
- » To be aware that children can access the Internet from almost any computer (home, friend's, or school).

SUGGESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- » Place home computers in a high traffic area in the home, not your child's bedroom.
- » Set reasonable rules and guidelines for computer use. Discuss and post them near the computer as a reminder.
- » Make casual checks of your child's work while they are using the Internet.
- » Monitor the sites visited by your children through logs and bookmarks on your computer.
- » Consider filtering software which can block access to objectionable sites, words or phrases.