Keeping Connected

Internet Safety Part 2 ( 9/1-9/5/2014)

Hello Parents. This week in computers we finished up our discussion on Internet Safety. One of my goals this week was to help your children understand that Internet Safety is not just applicable for computer use, but for all Internet-enabled devices, and that their parents and the other trusted adults around them are their best friends when it comes to keeping them safe online! I fielded a lot of questions about the safety of specific apps, and about interacting with other users, especially those they do not know online. I wanted to encourage you to talk with your children about what your family rules are regarding interacting with others online (Minecraft allows interaction with outside users, both known and unknown, depending on what device and what settings you allow), as well as checking out the safety and security of the apps on your household devices.

 I fielded a lot of questions about the Talking Tom and Talking Angela apps. As a result of these questions, I decided to do some research on these apps and found that the most frightening claims about these apps have been found to be untrue, despite some of our in-class discussions. That having been said, I urge you to learn more about these apps if you allow your children to use them. While many of the worst claims appear to be false, these apps do, in certain modes, ask your children for private, personal information, which at the very least teaches them that giving out that sort of information is ok. Many of the students in my classes this week discussed having been asked for personal information on these apps and others. It is worth considering for yourself and discussing with your children.

I am including links to a few articles that discuss the safety of other popular apps that I thought you might find interesting, as well as some information on the Talking Angela app.

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/15-sites-and-apps-kids-are-heading-to-beyond-facebook>

<http://fun.familyeducation.com/social-networking/cyberbullying/74548.html>

<http://www.checkupnewsroom.com/7-dangerous-apps-that-parents-need-to-know-about/>

<http://appsplayground.com/2014/02/20/talking-angela-parents-app-safe/>

Next week our lab should be up and running. We will be working on login procedures and creating strong passwords. Please be sure you have completed your student’s AUP (Acceptable Use Policy) on Skyward, as your child will be locked out of their login if that procedure has not been completed. Thank you! Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs. Ducos