



Mountview Road School

Counselor's Corner: April 2023

**Character Education Theme of the Month is:
Citizenship**



Teaching your children Digital Citizenship is very important as our world is changing faster than ever before. How do you help prepare your children for the digital age, and for a future that will look vastly different from our pasts? Below are tips to help you and your children take some positive steps in the right direction in navigating the waters of this very digital age.

Remain positively engaged

Pay attention to the online environments your children use. Surf the web with them. Appreciate and show interest in the content that they are engaging in; have discussions about the content that they are interested in. When they encounter inappropriate material, react constructively and make it a teachable moment.

Support good choices

As your child demonstrates competence in safe and secure online behavior, expand their online autonomy when appropriate. But continue to monitor their online activity to ensure safe and appropriate use.

Know the protection features of the websites, software, and apps your children use

All major internet service providers (ISPs) have tools to help you manage your children's online experience. These tools empower you to select approved websites, monitor the amount of time children spend online, and limit the people who can contact them. Your ISP might also have other security features, such as pop-up blockers. Remember, though, that your home computer isn't the only place they can go online. It is important that your children understand safe internet behavior on all devices.

Review privacy settings

Look at the privacy settings available on social networking platforms, computers, smartphones, apps, and other digital tools your children use. Engage your children in these decisions – decide together which settings provide the appropriate amount of protection for each child. Teach critical thinking: help your children identify safe, credible websites and other digital content. Teach them how to be cautious about clicking on, downloading, posting, and uploading content.

Explain the implications

Explain to your children the public nature of the internet and its risks and benefits. Be sure they know that any digital info they share, such as emails, photos or videos, can easily be copied and pasted elsewhere and is almost impossible to take back. Remind your children that inappropriate digital use could permanently damage their reputation, friendships, or future job prospects and should not be shared.

Help them be good digital citizens

Remind your children to be good "digital friends" by respecting personal information of friends and family and not sharing anything online about others that could be embarrassing or hurtful.

Empower your children to handle issues

Your children may face situations like cyberbullying, unwanted contact, or hurtful comments online. Work with them on strategies for when problems arise. These can include talking to a trusted adult right away, refusing to retaliate, calmly talking with the bully, blocking the person, or filing a complaint. Agree on steps to take if the strategy fails. It is better to have these strategies in place ahead of time instead of reacting after it happens.

Important April Dates/Events

- April 5: Grade 1 Celebrate the Differences Concert @ 1:45pm
- April 7-14: Spring Break - School's Closed
- April 19: Early Dismissal/Parent Teacher Conferences (afternoon)
- April 20: Early Dismissal/Parent Teacher Conferences(afternoon and evening)
- April 20: Good Character Fair in the gym 1:30-3pm
- April 20: Art Fair in the Media Center
- April 27: Bring your child to work day!
- April 28: MTV PTA Talent Show @ MJS 6:30pm

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