



Dear Parents,

Last week I wrote to you discussing the screen time our children are experiencing and the games and websites they now have access to. I asked that you monitor their activities to see where they are going and what they are doing. I am going to go one further. Please check and see what chats and apps they are using on their phones, and what they are saying on them. I am sure you have heard that we had the Stonington Youth Officer in yesterday to speak to the middle school students. There are new apps that have been developed during the pandemic to allow people to stay in contact and communicate with each other. Students are using these apps, along with existing ones, to communicate nightly. Unfortunately this has led to a rise in cyber bullying. Office Browning mentioned they are seeing more of this in the community, and unfortunately, I think we are seeing it in our community as well.

Students do not realize how harmful and hurtful the things that they put on group chats really are. They also don't realize that what they put on line never goes away. Watching the news and seeing the things young people have said that have come back to haunt both the person who posted and, in some cases, their family members will give you an idea of the seriousness of all of this.

I know parents are concerned about the privacy of their children. But, parents have an overriding responsibility to keep their children and their families safe. Monitoring their activities will keep them safe.

On another note, we have made it to April vacation. Thank you all for continuing to work with us to keep our school community healthy and in session. I hope everyone has a wonderful break next week. I think we all need it! We will come back after the break ready to move forward to the end of the year. Hopefully, the weather will continue to be nice and we will be able to plan some outside activities and enjoy the end of the year.

Don't forget to purchase your raffle tickets. The sales are going well, but we need everyone to participate. The raffle drawing will be on Friday, April 23.

Enjoy some family time next week; give everyone a chance to get outside and enjoy the spring weather.

God Bless,

Doris Messina