

May 11, 2020

Dear Families,

What a place of comfort the internet has been for many of us with family members and friends far away or even just across the street. Personally, I've been connecting with friends who I haven't heard from in years. This is something I consider a great gift as a result of the pandemic. It seems that while we have been observing isolation guidelines, we've been craving contact with other people.

During the typical school day, we have a consistent message to our learners about staying safe online especially as social media platforms become more prevalent and engaging. [An aside, I think my niece and nephew only communicate over snapchat these days.] As we continue with remote learning, please take the time to have conversations with your kids about online privacy. Here are some resources for you to explore: this resource regarding digital and media literacy: <http://mediasmarts.ca>; here is a great site regarding privacy education – check out the tips for parents <https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/about-the-opc/what-we-do/awareness-campaigns-and-events/privacy-education-for-kids/>; and finally, for the young set, this is a really cute and useful primary resource with several books in the series <https://ikeepSAFE.org/faux-paw-the-techno-cat/>

I am sure you all have questions about what a reintroduction to schools will look like. Please refer to our district website and Superintendent Bocking's communications regarding this matter: <https://sd46.bc.ca/families-and-students/covid-19-resources-support/> There are a variety of aspects and concerns to consider before committing to a plan. We are working hard at developing these plans while having all people at the centre and heart of our discussions.

It is truly a fulfilling honour serving our special community during these uncertain times. I am never too busy to hear from our families. Please reach out and let me know what types of support you need moving forward. I appreciate hearing and gathering your concerns. When I receive your feedback, I can better articulate our specific Cedar Grove needs.

Air hugs to all,

Olwen Cowan  
Principal

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