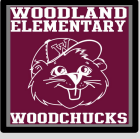


WORDS FROM WOODLAND



Woodland School Newsletter
February 2019

From the Principal, Jeff Heaney

I hope 2019 has gotten off to a good start for everyone. We are quickly approaching the middle of the school year and will be celebrating the 100th day of school in just a few weeks!

Each month I enjoy sharing what I hope is valuable information to help our children be the best they can be. As a father of an 8th and 5th grader, one of the challenges has been working through the complicated world of social media. I can vividly remember saying that I was not going to let my children be exposed to social media. Well, I quickly came to the conclusion that this is not realistic. Social media is a part of our children's lives. This is how they socialize and often it is how they stay connected to their friends. My goal now is to help them make smarter, safer decisions while navigating through the world of social media. I would like to share some ideas that I found to be helpful.

The information is taken from the article, **"Teaching Kids to be Smart About Social Media"** at <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/social-media-smarts.html>

Social Media, What Can Parents Do?

It's important to be aware of what your kids do online. But snooping can alienate them and damage the trust you've built together. The key is to stay involved in a way that makes your kids understand that you respect their privacy but want to make sure they're safe. Tell your kids that it's important to:

- **Be nice. Mean behavior is not OK. Make it clear that you expect your kids to treat others with respect, and to never post hurtful or embarrassing messages. And ask them to always tell you about any harassing or bullying messages that others post.**
- **Think twice before hitting "enter." Remind teens that what they post can be used against them. For example, letting the world know that you're off on vacation or posting your home address gives would-be robbers a chance to strike. Teens also should avoid posting specific locations of parties or events, as well as phone numbers.**
- **Follow the "WWGS?" (What Would Grandma Say?) rule. Teach kids not to share anything on social media that they wouldn't want their teachers, college admissions officers, future bosses — and yes, grandma — to see.**
- **Use privacy settings. Privacy settings are important. Go through them together to make sure your kids understand each one. Also, explain that passwords are there to protect them against things like identity theft. They should never share them with anyone, even a boyfriend, girlfriend, or best friend.**
- **Don't "friend" strangers. "If you don't know them, don't friend them." This is a plain, simple — and safe — rule of thumb.**

Make a Contract

Consider making a "social media agreement" with your kids — a real contract they can sign. In it, they agree to protect their own privacy, consider their reputation, and not give out personal information. They also promise not to use technology to hurt anyone else through bullying or gossip.

In turn, parents agree to respect teens' privacy while making an effort to be part of the social media world. This means you can "friend" and observe them, but don't post embarrassing comments or rants about messy rooms.

Parents also can help keep kids grounded in the real world by putting limits on media use. Keep computers in public areas in the house, avoid laptops and smartphones in bedrooms, and set some rules on the use of technology (such as no devices at the dinner table).

And don't forget: Setting a good example through your own virtual behavior can go a long way toward helping your kids use social media safely

Woodland's Morning Newscast Begins with Rave Reviews!!

Thanks to the efforts and hard work of Ms. Wisner and Ms.

McGrath, Woodland has its very own student-run morning newscast! 5th grade students have enjoyed serving as anchors and on the news crew. Students and staff have also really enjoyed seeing their classmates on the "big screen".



3rd graders learn about their families through a wonderful Immigration Project!



Career Day at Woodland



January 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

During the week of February 4-8th, 2019 our school will be celebrating **Start with Hello Week** with a mission to empower our students to create a culture of inclusion and connectedness.

Start with Hello teaches students the skills they need to reach out to and include those who may be dealing with social isolation. In addition to young people, **Start With Hello** will benefit educators, administrators and parents. By building a culture of inclusion, schools and communities can better support their young people and reduce their risk of bullying.

National **Start With Hello Week** is organized by Sandy Hook Promise, a non-profit organization that promotes peaceful, inclusive schools. More information about Sandy Hook Promise can be found at:

www.sandyhookpromise.org.

Please see the attached agenda for more information on our **Start With Hello Week** in Warren Township elementary schools.

Thank you,

Alexandra Pranzo
School Counselor



Start with Hello Week

Spirit Days

Monday, February 4th: “Hey Day!”

Students will wear name tags to encourage everyone to say “hey”!

Tuesday, February 5th: “Brighten Someone’s Day”

Wear neon or bright colors as a reminder to reach out and brighten someone’s day!

Wednesday, February 6th: “Get to Know Me Day”

Icebreaker cards and questions will be provided during lunch to spark conversations!

Thursday, February 7th: “Positivity Thursday”

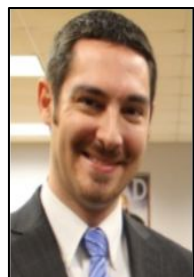
Positive messages will be posted around the school for all to enjoy!

Friday, February 8th: “Disconnect to Connect”

Wear a shirt with a character trait on it!

Challenge yourself to stay off electronic devices today and this weekend to connect with those around you: classmates, parents, teachers and siblings.





Superintendent's Corner



With the passing of the holidays, we now find many of our children learning how to use a variety of new technology devices safely. Rules and expectations for screen time, social media use, and video game playing are best left to parents; however, I would like to take the opportunity to share some excellent resources you may find useful as you grapple with decisions about how to manage technology use at home.

Connect Safely (www.connectsafely.org) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating users of connected technology about safety, privacy, and security. Unlike some other sources, the materials published by Connect Safely are research-based and vetted by educators. A colleague and friend of mine, Kerry Gallagher, is the Director of K-12 Education for the organization in addition to her day job as a school administrator in Massachusetts. She is a passionate promoter of a whole child approach to education - one that empowers students to make good decisions about their own technology use.

The website includes parent guides to Instagram, cyberbullying, Roblox, media literacy and “fake news,” educational technology, Google Family Link, LGBTQ cyberbullying, cybersecurity, Snapchat, and After School. If you haven’t heard of all of these things, don’t fret! The short guides provide a wealth of information to keep you up to date on these areas and more.

We know that Warren Township students as early as grade four report engaging in conversations online while playing games on their home devices. It is never too early to begin working together with our children about how to engage with these activities safely.

Matthew A. Mingle, Ed.D.

Each month students who demonstrate exemplary behavior and character are given the Woodland "Superhero" Award. It is our goal for students to realize that we all have the power to be superheroes by demonstrating acts of kindness and by being good human beings. Students' names are announced during morning announcements and they are given a special certificate.

December Superheroes

Kindergarten- Karen Yetim, Olivia Chen

1st grade- Faith Gechtman, Jack Muir, Samuel Mol

2nd grade- Ellie Lariviere, Charisa Sair

3rd grade -Shane Rajan, Destiny Omeji

4th grade- Aidan Segerson, Lucas Cordova

5th grade- Natalie Au, Macey Edwards, Deanna Casador



**INTELLIGENCE PLUS
CHARACTER-
THAT IS THE GOAL
OF TRUE EDUCATION.
-Martin Luther King, Jr.**



Please send in your Box tops. This is an easy way for the PTO to generate money. That money is then used for wonderful assemblies, classroom celebrations and other future events for our students



Date	Event
Friday, Feb 1	Spirit Day- "Superbowl" Wear Blue if you want the Rams or Red if you want the Patriots to win
Friday, Feb 8	PTO meeting 9:30am
Thurs, Feb 14th	Spirit Day- Wear red for Valentines Day
Tues, Feb 19th	Board Meeting at Woodland 7pm
Tues, Feb 26th	Fingerprinting

Follow Mr. Heaney on Twitter [@PrincWoodland](https://twitter.com/PrincWoodland) to see some of the great things that happen at Woodland!

