Ridge Road Reporter

November 2020

Dear Parents,

The end of the marking period has been extended. Progress reports will be **distributed to students in grades three and four only during this first marking period**. The 3rd and 4th grade progress reports will be sent home on Friday, December 11, 2020. All of our report cards serve as an indicator for how your child is progressing toward the expectations at his/her grade level.

Pre K- 2nd grade students will not receive actual report cards until the end of the 2nd marking period. However, all of the Pre K-4th grade teachers will be reviewing your child's progress with you at the parent teacher conference meetings during the afternoon time on December 15th, 16th and 18th via Zoom meetings. Your student's teacher will be communicating times to you in the upcoming weeks. This conference is a wonderful opportunity for you and your child's teacher to form a partnership and plan together how to best meet the individual learning needs of your child.

Utilize this first progress report and parent/teacher conference as a chance to take positive action. Share the information from the report and parent/teacher conference with your child. Find something to praise and then focus on any areas that may need improvement.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Bailey

Anne-Marie Manikowski-Bailey
Principal

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PTO NOTICE
Virtual Family Night
The PTO will be hosting a virtual family night on **Friday, November 20th, 2020.** This will feature a breakout room that you and your family will have to work together on many different clues to escape! A link will be emailed to all parents with complete instructions. There will be prizes awarded, by the PTO, based on speed and accuracy of answers!

RIDGE ROAD ROCKS!!!!

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Citizenship

Our Character Education virtue for the month of November is Citizenship. The students will focus on being good citizens, rights and responsibilities and contributing to your community and country.

If you have not had an opportunity, please take time to view the Veteran's Day Tribute, located on the Ridge Road Community Wednesday tab in Itslearning.

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Picture Days

Ridge Road's picture days are rescheduled for **Tuesday, December 1st for Cohort A and Thursday, December 3rd for Cohort B.** If your child is 100% remote and you would like their pictures taken, **please call Tracy in the school office by Monday, November 30th, at 739-6351 to schedule an appointment time.**

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No School on Wednesday, November 11th
In honor of Veterans' Day. School will not be in session.

Thanksgiving Recess
Wednesday, November 25th – Friday, November 27th. School will not be in session.
Wishing you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving.
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PTO Meeting
Tuesday, November 10th @ 6:30PM via Zoom. Please call the main office at 739-6351, or email mgillette@horseheadsdistrict.com or ambailey@horseheadsdistrict.com if you would like a Zoom invitation to join the meeting. Topics to be discussed include: Voting for Secretary, Contact-free Fundraiser, Virtual Clothing Sale, and the Exciting new Family Night!

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The Dignity Act Coordinator for the Horseheads Central School District is Caitlyn DeFilippo. Mrs. DeFilippo may be reached at One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, 607-739-5601 x 4211.

Happy Thanksgiving

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Digital Citizen News
November 2020

2020 ELECTION

Be a Hero - Exercise your right to Vote!
Volume 4 : Issue 3 - November 2020

This month we focus on Digital Identity

Last month we focused on DIGITAL SAFETY and SECURITY. This month we will focus on DIGITAL IDENTITY which is related to safety, privacy, and security because part of controlling your online IDENTITY has to do with maintaining the privacy and security of personal information with regards to your digital life.

> ### ⓘ DEFINITION OF DIGITAL FOOTPRINT
> "the information about a particular person that exists on the internet as a result of their online activity"

In previous issues we have written about your DIGITAL FOOTPRINT, which is one of the main things that you need to be aware of as you visit web sites and use online services.

It is an identity that goes with you as you interact with search engines, vendors, social media, and informational sites. Many sites will customize the content that is presented to you as you land on their site.

Each link you click on and every item that you "like" gets added into the pool of data about you that sites can use take advantage of you as you are surfing.

Be aware of the types of data that sites are collecting by looking at their policies, and use any controls that your browser programs may allow like DNT (Do Not Track) settings.

Some sites allow you to view the data that have about you, and some may allow you to delete it.

DEMOCRAT **REPUBLICAN**

DO YOU IDENTIFY WITH EITHER OF THESE PARTIES?

Are you aware that there is an election this month? We see signs, and symbols representing politicians all around our neighborhoods, and we can't turn on the TV or go online without seeing video ads, or tweets about political candidates and topics.

DO YOU FEEL THAT THESE MESSAGES ARE BASED ON FACTS OR OPINIONS? DO THEY SEEM TO BE TARGETING YOU? DO YOU FEEL THAT THEY ARE TRYING TO SWAY YOU TO CHANGE YOUR MIND? OR TO CHANGE YOUR VOTE?

When you use social media or browse through web sites...

DO YOU NOTICE ADVERTISING NEAR THE TOPS OF PAGES? OR IN THE MARGINS? DO THE ADS SEEM RELATED TO THINGS THAT YOU HAVE POSTED ABOUT? OR ITEMS THAT YOU HAVE SEARCHED?

As a digital citizen it is important to be aware of your footprint as you use sites and services, it is equally as important to be aware of sites that are trying to influence you with false information and fake claims.
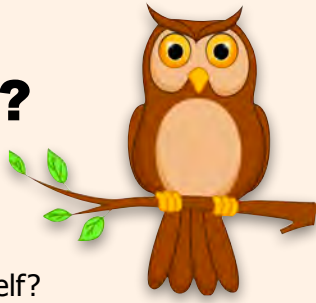
BE AWARE OF SITES THAT DISPLAY INFORMATION THAT IS CLEARLY BIASED, OR IS FAKE NEWS, OR THAT TRIES TO INFLUENCE YOU.

In this time where we have been bombarded by political news and information, have you noticed:
MEDIA THAT HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY TARGETED AT YOU?
INAPPROPRIATE PRODUCTS OR SERVICES THAT HAVE BEEN OFFERED TO YOU BASED ON SOMETHING YOU CLICKED?
MESSAGES THAT HAVE TRIED TO INFLUENCE OR PRESSURE YOU?

Whoo Are You Online?

Breaking down your Digital Identity

Have you ever Googled yourself?

If you answered NO, then I invite you to give it a try. Find anything you weren't expecting? Anyone who has a public presence online has something called a "digital footprint". Anything you post online (the good, the bad, and the ugly) says something about you as a person. It is up to you to decide what you want your digital identity to be.

If you use any social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, etc.) then you have already established a digital footprint. It is up to you to decide what you want your digital identity to look like when posting on your social media.

> It's growing. Your footprint expands as your information is copied and passed on, making it more searchable and viewable to a large invisible audience.
>
> It's not just up to you. When other people - like your friends, companies, or groups you belong to - track, post, or share information about you, it becomes part of your footprint.
>
> It's permanent. Because it's archived in a variety of ways and passed on by others, it doesn't ever go away.

Don't share something about yourself or someone else that you might later regret - you cannot take it back. Remember, something you post now could affect your future so always THINK before you post!

What's in a Signature?

Have you ever gotten an email and wondered 'who is this person'?

Have you ever gotten an email and wondered 'who is this person'? Adding a signature to your emails helps people know who you are and your role in the school. When you send an email people may not have the information they need to adequately respond to you. For students, this means adding at least your first name and your school. For emails that go to people outside the school you would never want to include your last name or grade to stay safe. For staff that means adding your full name, title, work location, and a phone with extension. This makes it easy for people to contact you and better understand your role at your school.

The good news is that adding a signature is easy. Different programs like Office 365, Google and Outlook usually have a "Mail" tab under Options or File and then a "Signature" section where you can include a signature for both new and reply emails (these can be different). Remember – each separate device needs its own signature as these do not 'travel' across devices.

So go ahead and make your email signature as unique as you are – add a quote, your website, a fancy font – just remember to make it school-friendly. Stuck?!? It didn't work?!? You can always "Ask a Librarian" in your school for help.

LINKS TO DIGITAL FOOTPRINT LESSONS from CommonSense Education

Digital Trails (Grade 2)
What information is OK to have in your digital footprint? http://go.gstric.org/403-trails

The Power of Digital Footprints (Grade 7)
How might our digital footprints shape our future? http://go.gstric.org/403-power

Social Media and Digital Footprints (Grade 8)
How does using social media affect our digital footprints? http://go.gstric.org/403-socialmedia

Who's Looking at Your Digital Footprint? (Grade 11)
How can information you post online affect your future opportunities? http://go.gstric.org/403-whos-looking

Dear Techie Tom

ON IDENTITY THEFT

Dear Techie Tom,

I have heard so much about identity theft on the news lately and I am concerned about the safety of my information. What steps can I take to protect mine and my family's identity online?

-Billie B.

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Dear Billie B.,
    Identity theft is a real concern
now-a-days and would be thieves are getting
more creative in trying to get yours and
your family's information. You can ensure
that your identity stays safe by taking
some of the following steps:
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1. Use strong, secure passwords and try not to use the same password twice.
2. Be careful with your physical (on paper) information. Shred all documents with personal details that may arrive in the mail or through other means.
3. Never enter information like your social security number, credit card number, or any other identifiable information on sites that you do not trust.
4. Avoid opening emails, clicking on links, or attachments from people you don't know.
5. Check your credit report at no cost once a year at **AnnualCreditReport.com,** which is approved by the Federal Trade Commission, to make sure there is no suspicious activity.
6. If you suspect your identity has been stolen, you can contact the Identity Theft Resource center at 1-888-400-5530 or by visiting **www.idtheftcenter.org**

By staying vigilant, you can make sure that all your personal information says secure!

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You can view more tips using our short link
http://go.gstric.org/403-theft (content
from ConnectSafely.org).
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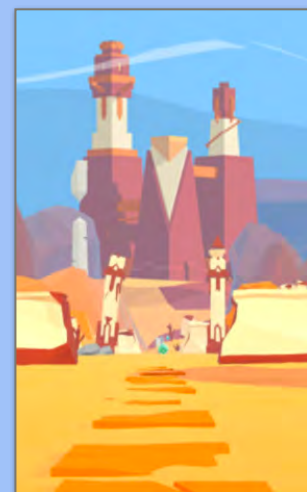
Activity Time - More Awesomeness

In the October 2020 issue of this newsletter, we introduced you to the wonderful world of **Interland**, which is a part of Google's **Be Internet Awesome** initiative.

Interland has a world called **Tower of Treasures**, where your task is to collect your personal information and save it in the tower of treasure before hackers get it!

You can play this game with no sign up at **http://go.gstric.org/403-tower**

Once you have dodged the hackers, head on over the **Be Internet Awesome Family Page** at **http://go.gstric.org/403-families** and check out some fantastic print resources and activities centering around all things digital citizenship!

GSTRIC Digital Citizenship Resources

The Digital Citizenship Committee has been providing newsletters going on four years now! Have you ever been to the Digital Citizenship website and checked out all the available resources?

The URL for the website is http://dc.gstboces.org

Browsing the website, you will find links to:

- Digital Citizenship Monthly Newsletters
- Digital Citizenship Blog
- The current 2021-2022 Calendar Contest information
- The 2020-2021 Digital Citizenship Calendar
- All student art submitted for the 2020-2021 Digital Citizenship Calendar contest
- Downloadable/Printable Resources
- GST Web Resources
- Copyright and Fair Use Resources
- Other Web Resources
- Resources from a past GST BOCES Workshop on Digital Citizenship

Currently not receiving our monthly newsletter electronically. Sign up here http://go.gstric.org/dcnews-signup

Follow us on Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/dc.gstboces/

Once you have checked out our webpage, and caught up on newsletters, send any comments, suggestions and questions to dc@gstboces.org. We would be glad to hear from you.

NOVEMBER 2020

digital detective

Exploring Your Own Digital Footprint

Use this sheet to jot down sites and services that you use regularly and explore their privacy policies. What types of information are they collecting about you? Do you notice that the site customizes its content specifically for you? If your friends use the site, does it show them the same content it shows you?

searches + commercial sites:

social media:

websites that you use:

** After you have finished your investigations, share your information and what you have learned with your parents and your family, your teachers, and your classmates. And of course, you can always share it with us at dc@gstboces.org.

GST BOCES Digital Citizenship Initiative
Tracking Your Digital Footprint
November 2020

Visit http://dc.gstboces.org

RIC one DPS