

North Toronto School Council **November 22nd, 2005 Meeting**

Internet Safety

Glen McBryde (gmcbyde@tps-istc.ca) from the Toronto Police Service – Technological Crime Unit delivered a very informative presentation regarding Internet Safety.

Computer Crime

Common Offences

Break and enter – to steal computer equipment

Theft

Fraud

Pornography

Extortion

Uttering Threats

What are the Students Doing?

Online Gambling

Sports Betting

Casinos

Day Trading

There is 0 tolerance in schools related to inappropriate internet usage.

The Internet

Tools of the Trade

Access to the internet. Not just at home but at many other places. Wireless connections have increased the risk.

Search Engine Translation Feature: If you find, a different language on your home computer, that no one in your family speaks, your child may be translating their message into a different language before sending it. It is easy for the sender and receiver to use a program to translate.

Security: There are many ways to find out who you are via “reverse telephone phone directories” on the net. It can happen via other ways as well. One of the largest directories that is bought and sold is Pizza Pizza.

Wireless: Make sure you install properly and know the security features in the router. You should password protect your wireless. In one case, a student was inadvertently picking up the entire hard drive of their next door neighbour!

Free Email: Yahoo, Hotmail, gmail (Google’s email). Be aware. With gmail, you can store information off-site.

School Sucks.com: A site where you can download a term paper for almost anything.

Freevote.com: Polling booths. You can put up whatever type of polling booth you want. There are many polls for high schools in Toronto with questionable polls. For example,

“which girl is the hottest at X high school?” If your child is the subject of an offensive poll, send an email to the host site, and ask them to remove it.

MSN. The pop-up box that says ‘so and so has just signed on’ is just a screen name. Tell your kids to turn on logging as this feature will capture the entire conversation (just a box you check). The help feature in MSN is very good. Sometimes in some chat systems, it may be called ‘message history’.

Passwords: Do not let your children use passwords. Who is paying for the computer, who is paying for the internet – the parent!

Thought: If you don’t want the Whole Wide World to know, don’t put it on the internet!

Dark Side of the Internet: Examples are: 1) ‘Overthrow.co’ which includes terrorist information, 2)The School Stopper’s Textbook (a guide to disruptive tactics for high-schoolers) and 3)The Anarchist Cookbook showing how to make bombs and a chapter on terrorizing teachers. Also phrack.org where all the bad guys go to brag on topics like how to make TNT. Other examples are The Torture Network which shows a taste of real life stomach churning violence and graphic carnage and ogrish.com showing very graphic accidents.

Case Study

Robert J, 14 year old male, lives at home, student living in North York. Found teacher’s sales receipt in bag that the teacher brought in for a school project. The receipt had the teacher’s credit card number. The student obtained the teacher’s license plate registration from the car in the school parking lot. He then went to a Ministry of Transportation kiosk and using the credit card number, found out address, birth date. He began to order items on the internet and tracked delivery on internet. Arranged for the packages to be dropped at the school, while he was working in the office. The student was arrested – by this time he had racked up \$16,870!!!

Stephen R. Grade 11 student, a bit of a loner. Lived on the dark side, fascinated by anarchy, dressed in black, member society Goth, spent hours on chat lines. Got a job in the library, was a trusted employee, obtained a supervisor’s password, began to steal money and property on line. He would go home, sign on, and remove any trace of the product ever existing at the library. He collected material, gave it to friends and the school. He became very popular with friends which further encouraged him. He was discovered and arrested.

How do they hide it? There are numerous ways including small USB ports worn on a necklace around the neck, cell phones, personal digital devices etc.

Where to Find Out More Information?

A very helpful way to find out additional information is to do a search using the term is the Parent’s Guide to the Internet or search Parental Controls. Helpful sites are www.bewebaware.ca. or www.cybertip.ca or www.safeteens.com or www.safekids.com.

Personal Security

Password Protection and Security: don't leave your password out near your computer or use the same one again.

Personal Security: don't give out personal information.

E-mail addresses on business cards: don't use your personal email address or perhaps use a nickname versus your full name.

Code names non de plume: Have your kids use different names versus their full one.

Credit Cards Secure Sites: Make sure there is a little padlock at the bottom of the site. It should read https (http is not secure).

What Can Parents Do?

Learn about the internet

Get involved

Stay informed

Be an advocate for your children

Principal's Report

Community Meeting on November 28th to inform students and parents about what is happening regarding the new school

Twin School in China: Ashley Waltman went to China to set up a twin relationship with a Shanghai school.

Optional Attendance Parent Information Meeting on January 17th, 2006: During the day at 9:00 a.m. there will be session for Grade 8 students. Students attending this session from outside of the school district, need to register.

Music Performance on Thursday, November 24th: Several performances took place. A neat experience was seeing 101 students perform together as a massed band.

North Toronto Bands performed at Vaughn Mills, Woodbine Centre and the Santa Claus Parade on the week-end of November 19th/20th. The Marching Band will be performing at the Markham Santa Claus Parade this Saturday, November 26th. Members of the Toronto Symphony came in and did sessions with The Symphony Orchestra.

Sports News: The Girls Basketball won the City Championship, the field hockey team won the city championship and represented us well at OFSAA, the football team showed much character. Winter sports are now beginning to practice.

Semi-Formal: A semi-formal took place on November 18th. There were 300 students present. A couple of students were sent home for drinking too much (and suspended) and

another student who was sent home for other behaviour. Otherwise, a very successful event.

North Toronto Trivia: The Board is getting \$1.8 million in textbooks from Ontario government. They identified semester schools, at-risk students etc. to decide the number of text-books required. In this school there were 30 at-risk credits taken - the lowest in TDSB. The next lowest school was Etobicoke School of the Arts with 71 at-risk credits.

Vice-Principal's Report (Mike Ferguson):

Interview Schedule: November 24th 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. is parent interview times. The times are only five minutes long but you can set up an additional time with the teacher if required.

December Exam Timetable: It will be created by early the week of November 28th.

New Late Policy is working!

Financial Report: (Simon Berkowitz): Contributions from parents were \$18,000. There are three requests:

1. Graffiti Newspaper: \$500. Simon Berkowitz moved the motion. Karen Kingsmill seconded the motion.
2. Field Hockey (Boys and Girls): \$850. Simon Berkowitz moved the motion. Leslie Wood seconded the motion.
3. Shipping Costs for Clothing, Toys etc. to Africa: Simon Berkowitz moved the motion. It was not seconded and funding for this event, was not supported.

Approval of the September and October Minutes: Toby Rosner moved to approve. Karen Kingsmill seconded the motion.

Next Meeting: January 10th, 2006

