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Mr. George Lewis  
Principal

Mr. Christopher Loria  
Superintendent

Dear Masonic Heights Parents of Students in Grades 3-5:

As part of the technology curriculum all Lake Shore students in grades 3, 4 and 5 were given email addresses this year. The proper use of email is one of the state technology standards that we teach our students. Student email accounts are protected by several filters. Inappropriate words and emails that contain language that would be regarded as bullying are blocked. The filter also restricts spam or emails that may contain a virus. At school email is monitored closely. It will only be accessed under teacher supervision and used for school related purposes. Of course it is up to the parent to determine if children will be permitted to access their school email account on a home computer.

Last week (Jan. 11, 12 and 13) the students were introduced to using email with their Lake Shore email accounts. Students learned to login to their own account, how to send email to another student in the same class and how to reply to mail they received from a classmate. They also learned how to delete email.

Netiquette was covered in the areas of; 1. Don't write in all Capital letters, it's like shouting. 2. Be aware of the tone of voice you are using. 3. Avoid insults in email. 4. Be aware that email is not private.

Safety was covered by talking about spam, virus, hoax or chain letters. These should not be opened, just deleted. Students were told to never open mail from an unknown sender, just delete it. They were also told to NOT share any personal data such as name, address, phone number with people and to never meet with strangers outside of home or school.

More safety lessons will be taught using materials from [www.Netsmartz.org](http://www.Netsmartz.org) and Professor Garfield's [www.Infinitelearninglab.org](http://www.Infinitelearninglab.org). Students will be asked to sign an "Internet Safety Rules" document that covers these four rules.

1. I will tell my trusted adult if anything makes me feel sad, scared, or confused.
2. I will ask my trusted adult before sharing information like my name, address, and phone number.
3. I won't meet face-to-face with anyone from the Internet.
4. I will always use good netiquette and not be rude or mean online.

Students will also learn about cyber bullying and how to tell if a website has authentic, authoritative information that is factual. If you go to Masonic Heights Library home page (<http://mhlib.weebly.com/>) you will find some sites we use to teach about false information on websites.

The internet is a wonderful source of information, communication and entertainment but good netiquette and safety rules should be followed at home and in school. Please help us teach your children safe surfing skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Mrs. Carol Weigel Library Media Specialist



[www.lakeshoreschools.org](http://www.lakeshoreschools.org)



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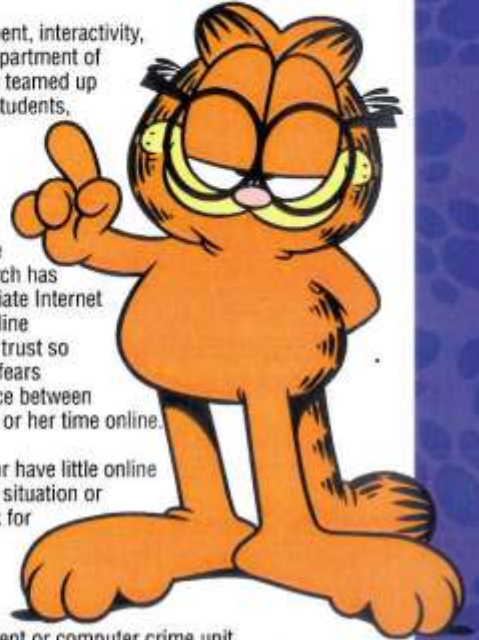
# INTERNET SAFETY TIPS

What Parents, Grandparents, and Caregivers Need to Know

The Internet is a powerful tool providing information, entertainment, interactivity, and communication to people all over the world. The Virginia Department of Education and the Office of the Attorney General of Virginia have teamed up with the Professor Garfield Foundation to provide guidance for students, teachers, and parents in order to help students protect themselves online.

Remember that technology and the Internet is your child's playground. Children often do not view the Internet as the complex and powerful network that it is. Sometimes children are reluctant to tell trusted adults about what happens online; research has shown that about 25 percent of children do not report inappropriate Internet experiences. They may be scared, ashamed, or fear that their online privileges will be taken away from them. Work to build a level of trust so that your children are comfortable discussing their problems or fears regarding their Internet use. By working together to find a balance between freedom and protection, you can help your child better enjoy his or her time online.

Some parents and guardians who are either new to technology or have little online experience become frustrated and distance themselves from the situation or ignore the Internet safety problem entirely. Don't be afraid to ask for help! There are many resources available to help parents and guardians understand how the Internet functions, how to diagnose a potential problem, and how to treat the situation. You can get advice from Internet safety experts in your local schools, or you can contact your local law enforcement department or computer crime unit.



There are many online resources that help parents learn about the potential dangers online and how they can better protect their child.

**NetSmartz for Parents:**

<http://www.netsmartz.org/netparents.htm>

**WiredSafety: Information for Parents:**

<http://www.wiredsafety.org/parent.html>

**CommonSense Media Advice for Parents:**

<http://www.commonsensemedia.org/advice-for-parents>

**Connect Safely:**

<http://www.connectsafely.org/>

**Online Predators: What You Can Do to Minimize the Risk (Microsoft)**

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/children/kidpred.msp>

**CyberTipline (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children)**

[https://secure.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/CybertipServlet?LanguageCountry=en\\_US](https://secure.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/CybertipServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US)



[www.infinitelearninglab.org](http://www.infinitelearninglab.org)

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