

Forest Park Library Media Center News SPECIAL EDITION – Digital Citizenship

Dear Parents,

The Today Show aired a troubling segment Tuesday morning concerning the virtually interactive games, Fortnite and Minecraft. 25 adult men were arrested for impersonating children on these games. These men were befriending children and coercing them into giving personal private information. One of these men is a registered sex offender.

Please be aware that Fortnite and Minecraft are interactive games which means that they are not just playing against the gaming system. They have the capability of inviting others to play with them. They may communicate through a headset or by messaging.

Click here to watch the Today Show segment mentioned above.

In an effort to ensure the virtual safety of our students, First through Fifth Grade Students have been participating in Digital Citizenship lessons in the library. These lessons focus on internet safety and support the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

Students have been told to adhere to these 4 principles:

- 1. ALWAYS have parents' permission before accessing the internet, downloading apps, creating accounts, and playing games.
- 2. NEVER give out personal private information.
- 3. ALWAYS talk or play games with people you know and spend time with face to face.
- 4. NEVER meet anyone in person that you have only met online.

Each week, I will send home a Family Tip Sheet from www.commonsensemedia.org. This website is a wonderful resource for information on keeping your child safe on the internet, as well as an amazing parent guide to literature, movies, apps, and more!

Please...

- 1. Read the attached Family Tip Sheet.
- 2. Initial the Family Tip Sheet showing that you have read it.
- 3. Send the Family Tip Sheet back to school in your child's folder.

Your Family Tip Sheet will be returned to you for future reference! You also have access to all of the Family Tip Sheets being sent home on Forest Park's webpage on the LRSD website! Please visitwww.lrsd.org. Click on Schools and Forest Park, and then click on Cyber Safety and Digital Citizenship Resources from the right side menu!

Please remember to visit <u>www.commonsensemedia.org</u> for more information on keeping your child safe in an ever-growing, ever-changing technological world! Learn how to promote safe usage of social media and technology in your home!

Thank you for helping inform and empower your children to be life-long good Digital Citizens!

Sincerely, Mrs. Graves, LMS ☺