HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020!

This is the time of year when many people make new resolutions - One of this month's posters is an activity to create a New Year's Digital Citizenship Resolution. Print the poster and make your resolution now.

Did you or any members of your family receive new devices over the holidays?

If so, this is a great time to review online safety tips with your family members geared toward helping them protect their personal information.

Here are some very important tips to share with your family:

- **Remind them why security is important.** People of all ages should not reveal too much information about themselves. Keeping data secure and only providing what is necessary minimizes online exposure to scammers and criminals. Birthdates, addresses, age and especially Social Security numbers are among things that should not be shared freely.

- **Always use security software with firewall and anti-virus protections.** Make sure the security software is always turned on and can automatically update. Encrypt sensitive files such as tax records stored on computers. Use strong, unique passwords for each account. Be sure all family members have comprehensive protection especially if devices are being shared.

- **Teach them to recognize and avoid scams.** Phishing emails, threatening phone calls and texts from thieves posing as IRS or from legitimate organizations pose risks. Do not click on links or download attachments from unknown or suspicious emails.

- **Protect personal data.** Don't routinely carry a Social Security card. Keep it at home. Be sure any financial records are secure. Advise children and teens to shop at reputable online retailers. Treat personal information like cash; don't leave it lying around.

- **Teach them about public Wi-Fi networks.** Connection to Wi-Fi in a mall or coffee shop is convenient but it may not be safe. Hackers and cybercriminals can easily intercept personal information. Always use a virtual private network when connecting to public Wi-Fi.

- **Think twice before using a public USB charging station.** There is a security risk labeled "juice jacking", a USB charger scam that permits hackers to access and/or infect devices while charging. Hackers can load malware into the public charging stations or in cables left plugged into the stations.

More safety information and tips about avoiding scams - http://go.gstric.org/305-safety

DO YOU KNOW TikTok ?

What is TikTok?

TikTok is a short-form, video-sharing and social media app that allows users to create and share 15-second videos, on any topic.

The app has simplified video creation and sharing and taken it to the next level. All users can record anything from their daily routines and post it instantly. Neither the video-creation nor the watching process takes much time or effort.

When a user opens the app, the videos start playing one-by-one and a viewer gets lost in a sea of addictive video content.

As for the content itself, all the inappropriate words and sexual lyrics that go along with popular music are obviously part of the app, and some of the clothing and dance moves in videos can be a little risqué.

Parents can access the privacy settings though there are no actual parental controls. Be aware that it is still possible to watch videos from the app without ever creating an account.

Sign Up to receive this newsletter in your email inbox

Scan this QR code with your phone, or go to http://go.gstboces.org/dcnews-signup in your browser.

TECH-KNOWLEDGE-G QUOTE FOR JANUARY

The Internet? Is that thing still around?

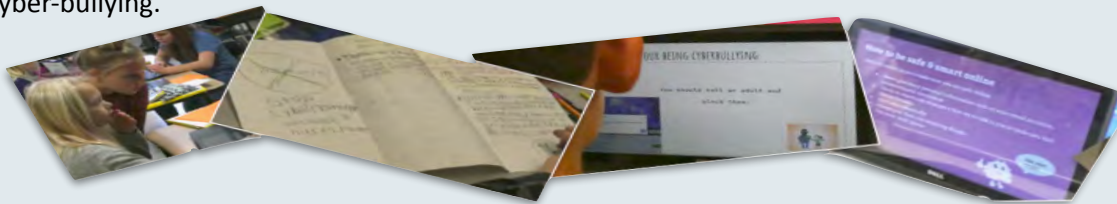**HOMER SIMPSON**, *The Simpsons, Season 10, Episode 23*

Send comments, suggestions, and questions to dc@gstboces.org
Visit http://dc.gstboces.org

HORSEHEADS
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Integrating Digital Citizenship and Internet Safety into the new ELA Curriculum

Fifth graders in the Horseheads Central School District are incorporating digital citizenship as they learn about informational reading and expository writing in their new ELA curriculum. Students were given various informational pieces related to digital citizenship which they had to read, annotate, comprehend, and gather information to present to their peers. For their final task of the unit, students could choose to do either do a Google Slides presentation or a paper pamphlet to create an informational guide. Additionally, they could choose between the topics of digital citizenship or cyber-bullying.

Students created their final products and shared them with their classmates in small groups to further solidify their learning. The project met students at a very good age, where they are increasingly having access to phones and other technologies. Some teachers also found that the exposure prompted deeper discussions in class as they, along with their students, began to define safe and appropriate online behavior.

RESOURCES

Many sources were utilized including Google's "Be Internet Awesome" (go.gstric.org/305-awe) digital safety and safety curriculum, a guest presentation on digital citizenship, an article entitled "World Wide Web of Hurt" by Tamekia Reece (go.gstric.org/305-hurt), as well as an anchor text entitled "The Technology Tail," by Julia Cook (go.gstric.org/305-tail), which provides a new twist to the familiar digital footprint concept.
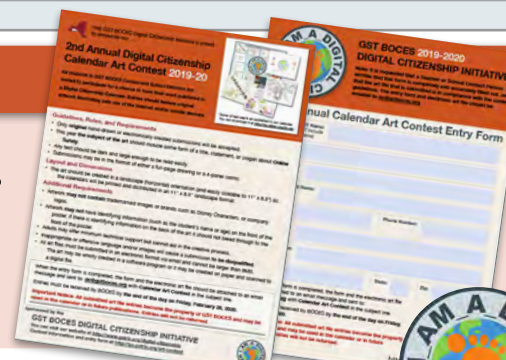
THE TECHNOLOGY TAIL

For a few activities to use with the "Tail" story.
go.gstric.org/305-tail2

** Calendar Art Contest Reminder

Students Artists! Create some original art on the topic of **Online Safety**. Enter it in our contest and if it is chosen - It will appear in our next Calendar. **Entries must be received by February 28th, 2020.**
Get the full details on our website. Use the shortcut below:

http://go.gstric.org/art-contest

I AM A DIGITAL CITIZEN

Back in May of 2017 we sponsored an **"Un-plug and Play" Weekend** and encouraged everyone to put down their devices. Here are some more suggestions!

Unplug and Reconnect

10 ways to take a Tech Time Out

Taking time away from digital technology can be a challenge, but disconnecting from the digital world is a great way to reconnect with family and friends.

Here are ten ideas for things you can do when you've unplugged from cyberspace.

PLAY A GAME	With all the great board games out today there are a lot of great choices you can find at your local board game shop or department store if you don't already have a favorite game at home.
TELL STORIES BY CANDLELIGHT	Pretend you are sitting around a campfire. Take turns telling true or make-believe stories to each other.
FAMILY DESSERT TIME	Set up a sundae bar with your favorite toppings and let everyone make their own ice cream treat!
READING THEATER	Pick out a book that your friends and family can read together. Take turns reading parts of the book out loud – and don't forget to make up voices for the characters!
VISIT A MUSEUM	There are a lot of great places in your town to learn something new – take a trip to a local museum to see what you can find out about the world around you.
MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT	Help take care of our surroundings by organizing or participating in a clean-up effort to beautify your town or park.
COOKING LESSON	Have a favorite dish that your family has for dinner? Ask your parent or guardian to show you how to make it and learn to cook it for your family.
MAKE SOMETHING	Show your crafty side by making something out of what you have at home – what can you build? It can be something simple like origami or even a bird house to feed our feathered friends!
TAKE A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE	Look at old photos of your family and talk about what the story is behind the pictures. Ask a parent or guardian to do it with you and learn about what your family did before you were born.
BUILD A FAMILY TREE	Start building the tree with the family members you know and then get help from parents or guardians to help add more branches.

Robby Reindeer says . . .

Treat your password like your toothbrush!

. . . Choose a good, strong one

. . . Don't leave it laying around

. . . Don't share it with anyone

. . . Change it regularly

ROBBY R.

I AM A DIGITAL CITIZEN

GST BOCES DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP INITIATIVE
"Reindeer Wisdom" January 2020 poster

http://dc.gstboces.org

Source: Based on a Clifford Stoll quote.   http://go.gstric.org/toothbrush-quote

I AM A DIGITAL CITIZEN

January 2020

My Digital Citizenship Resolution

This year I will improve my digital citizenship skills by:

Signed by: _____

Date: _____

Review the Digital Citizenship Elements:

Digital Law
Digital Security
Digital Rights
    & Responsibilities
Digital Access
Digital Etiquette
Digital Communication
Digital Literacy
Digital Wellness
Digital Commerce

And then make your resolution.

Plan to make your resolution something that you can easily work on through the end of the school year and into the summer.

GST BOCES Digital Citizenship

http://dc.gstboces.org