

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I wanted to let you know that your child is learning about internet safety and what types of information are safe to share online. The lesson I will teach is about Red and the Cyberwolf and is a takeoff on the *Little Red Riding Hood* story.

This lesson is all about protecting your private information when you are online. Ultimately, students learn how to determine what is risky to share and what is safe to share. For example, consider all of the information given out when you fill in surveys or enter online contests. More importantly, when you are on social media and take that BuzzFeed, “Which-Harry-Potter-Character-Are-You?” quiz, what PII (Personally Identifiable Information) are you granting access to? When you give out any information online, there is a possibility that you are giving away your privacy and making yourself vulnerable to predators.

In this lesson, students will learn to STOP and THINK before they CONNECT and decide to share information. Students receive a letter from Red—the granddaughter of Little Red Riding Hood. All her life, Red has been warned to not talk to strangers. However, she likes to play online and is worried that the Big Bad Wolf might try to talk to her when she is playing. After reading an article about cybersecurity, the students will identify some risky online activities, focusing on the dangers of cyberstrangers.

Here are some of the most important internet safety rules we will discuss:

- NEVER agree to meet alone with someone you only met online. NEVER give out personal information such as your name, address, telephone number, email address, school name.
- ALWAYS check with your parents/guardians before sending photos or downloading/installing software.

Here are some resources you might want to use to learn more:

StopThinkConnect.org provides some excellent parent tip sheets on raising privacy savvy kids <https://www.stopthinkconnect.org/resources/preview/tips-for-parents-on-raising-privacy-savvy-kids> and online gaming <https://www.stopthinkconnect.org/resources/preview/tip-sheet-gaming-tips-for-parents>. The Federal Trade Commission provides some advice for parents on how to protect kids online <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/topics/protecting-kids-online> and advice for chatting with kids about being online <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/pdf-0001-netcetera.pdf>. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,