

# Digital ink

## MONITORING ACTIVITY & ONLINE SAFETY

### FIRST STEPS TOWARDS SAFER AND MORE EFFECTIVE INTERNET ACTIVITY

#### WHAT SHOULD YOU BE DOING AT HOME TO ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD IS SAFE WHEN ON THE INTERNET?

Digital use and access to the Internet is dictating how both students and adults perceive the world beyond school or the home. While this has given people the opportunity to gain expansive knowledge about the greater world, we are unable to entirely control the information that we read and receive on a daily basis. This can be alarming for some parents as their lack of control over the information that their children receive can lead to a negative experience. It is vital, then, that parents and students are equipped with the necessary tools to maintain a safe and fulfilling experience when using the Internet not only because it will keep people safe from the negativity of the Internet, but it will also provide users with the knowledge to search for and use information much more effectively.



In order to be more digitally aware you need to utilise all of the information that is given to you.

Part of this is understanding where to get the information from.

Taking a practical approach is website called 'techaddiction'. 'Tech addiction' is focused on the installation of software to control and monitor the activity of children and teenagers on the Internet including the methods on how to do so. The most interesting feature of this website is the comment section that allows users to put forward their comments and share their thoughts and opinions either on the website's information and its relativity or how effective a particular piece of software is.. The sense of community and sharing a similar opinion with other people is a great transition for people who are potentially intimidated by the process of monitoring digital activity.

In every edition of the Digital Ink a section of the newsletter will be dedicated to websites, information, hardware or software that aims to improve digital literacy. In this edition, Parent Info is an archive of information that parents and students can use to better understand what's happening in their digital world. It tackles basic and complex information about the most common and extreme practices where technology is considered in every day life and is worth a visit.

TRY THIS!



PARENT INFO, FROM 'CEOP' AND 'PARENTZONE'.

'Parent Info' is a fantastic archive of articles that explains common practices of the Internet that most students will be utilising. It covers the use of mobile applications such as 'Whatsapp' to the PEGI games ratings that are used to decide the age required to purchase all games on the market. Understanding this site is an important first step to becoming more acutely aware of the exposure that most students are experiencing in the digital world. If you haven't already, make sure to visit this site and read the information that it has to offer. It is easy to be overwhelmed by all of the information on this site, so breakdown the information into manageable portions suitable for you. This way you will take in all of the information presented to you, and will be likely to return to the website again.

### USEFUL LINKS TO IMPORTANT RESOURCES

- <http://parentinfo.org>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology>
- <http://www.techaddiction.ca/monitor-internet-activity.html>

