

Social Media Seminars Presentation – A.M. - Students
Cathy Weaver Elementary School – October 19, 2010

Let's face it. The world has changed dramatically in the last five years. Technology and Social Media have become the accepted language of our children. The problem is, the kids who are talking to their friends on a daily basis out in cyberspace are also exposing themselves and the private details of their lives to people who are less than honest.

In many cases, children these days don't have a clear understanding of "boundaries" and why they are so important.

They don't see the harm in posting their names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and birthdays on their Facebook pages.

They don't realize that they are inviting trouble when they post a message telling their friends they're going on vacation next week and that no one will be home.

They simply don't understand the necessity of keeping private details private.

Something else they don't understand?

Once it's on Facebook or Twitter, it's there for good.

You can never truly delete a post from cyberspace.

Perhaps you posted a less than flattering picture of yourself... doing something your parents might not be proud of. Do you understand that if you wouldn't want someone to see it on a billboard in the middle of town, you shouldn't be posting it on Facebook?

Someday when you're applying for a job, your potential boss might do a search on you and uncover that picture. Will he or she be impressed, or horrified?

Will it mean you don't get the job? How would you feel about that?

And what about talking to strangers? When I was a kid, we were taught never to interact with someone we didn't know. Thanks to Social Media, interacting with strangers has become the norm for kids these days. Sure, you might trust your Facebook friends.

But what about THEIR friends? Suddenly, you're talking with people you've never met before. Should you trust them? Why?

We need to remind students that a stranger is exactly that... a stranger.

If I don't know you, why would I want to share the private details of my life with you?

These are some of the many questions young students aren't bothering to ask themselves these days. This interactive session is designed to open children's eyes... to help them realize that for all the fun that Social Media has to offer, there are dangers lurking in cyberspace, too. Once they understand those dangers, they'll be better able to protect themselves and to "play safe".

Social Media Seminars Presentation – P.M. - Parents
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Join online blogger, teacher and longtime journalist Karen Cumming as she helps Baby Boomer parents de-mystify Social Media. From Facebook to Twitter to LinkedIn and YouTube... moms and dads are skeptical. In many cases, they're asking: "Why should I care?" In this interactive session, Karen will help parents make sense of this brave new world.

And let's not forget the "fear factor". Parents tend to fear Social Media because they don't understand it, and because many of them don't tend to use it in their daily lives. That being said, they also know how important it is for them to grasp the basics. Why? *They want to keep their kids safe.*

500 million people are using Facebook on a daily basis. It is a phenomenon in the truest sense of the word. Karen explains both the pros and the cons... the benefits and the dangers of Facebook and beyond.

You'll learn about the safety and security issues involved, the history of Social Media, the worldwide popularity of it, and the social implications of it. Karen will show you how Social Media is revolutionizing the way in which the world communicates. And she'll teach you how to join the parade before it passes you by.

Want to keep yourself and your family safe while you're all surfing cyberspace? Consider this an overview of the exciting yet often intimidating high-tech world we're all living in!