



# *Pitt Meadows Secondary School*

## *Ecole Secondaire Pitt Meadows*

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our administrative team, along with our counselling and educational staff have noticed pockets of concerning interactions taking place at school and on social media involving students. We are writing today to make an appeal to you, as caregivers, to talk to your students about the dangers and the permanence of sharing, posting, and viewing inappropriate or abusive content on sites such as Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, Discord and other social media sites. Many of these accounts are private and the content is shared exclusively between students until it is reported to our staff. We are also asking you to speak with your students about the importance of using language that does not further marginalize or harm groups in our PMSS community.

With regards to social media, here are some of the concerns you may choose to talk about:

- Students are ultimately responsible for the content they post and need to consider the potential harm to the mental and physical health of other students.
- Students need to be aware that the police can charge students who distribute inappropriate photos or produce criminal content.
- Anonymity can embolden students to act cruelly.
- Any other concerns you have about your student's social media use: screen time, time of day it is used (ie late into the night), etc.

We appreciate that you ultimately know your child best and will know which approach will work best for you and your family.

We encourage you, as caregivers, to research some of the useful information that can be found online about current social media sites that are being used by students. One we would suggest you look at is entitled [11 Social Media Red Flags Parents Should Know About](#), which is linked here.

Finally, at school, students are reporting to staff that some of our students are talking and acting disrespectfully to each other. Our staff are working hard to interrupt sexism, racism, homophobia, and other marginalizing language whenever we are aware of it, but we need your help on this front too. Language such as this, even if students feel they are "just joking" with friends, is never appropriate.

Ultimately our staff are working hard to ensure students are feeling valued, respected, and fully accepted for being themselves. We see this as a fundamental human need and a necessary precondition for students to engage in the valuable work we ask of them at school. We appreciate your support in this crucial area. We believe that the vast majority of students have a very positive experience here at Pitt, and we will continue to strive for making the experience a positive one for ALL students.

Should you have any questions or become aware of behaviours that are causing harm among our student body, please reach out to the administrative team here at PMSS or one of our counsellors.

Thank you for your support in this area, and for all you do for our students!

Colin Sharpe  
Principal

**Colin Sharpe**  
Principal

**Denis JG Drapeau**  
Vice-Principal

**Gary Lozinski**  
Vice-Principal

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