eSmart News – Posting Photos

Use this QR code or CLICK HERE to let us know you have read the article!

As parents we are incredibly proud of our children and as a result take some wonderful photographs that we may want to share with our family and friends. However, it is very important to think before we post and ensure that we are being eSmart – smart, safe and responsible before doing so. **This is particularly important if those images include other children in them.**

Julie Inman Grant, the Children's eSafety Commissioner, says how important it is to stop and think before we post, particularly when posting photographs of our children. By discussing with our children from an early age when we do and don't post photographs, we are modelling those smart and responsible behaviours we want to cultivate in them. Stopping and saying things like, "I will post this photo of you for Grandma and use the privacy settings to ensure that only family members can see it". Or "We can't post that photo because you're friend is also in it and I don't have their parents' permission".

These conversations are vital to ensure that our children make good choices in the future and for those that already have their own devices that future is here! Once we post a photo or video we lose control of that image. It can be shared, copied and/or manipulated by others and forms part of our digital footprint forever. Increasingly employers are searching social media sites before offering interviews and this is something we all need to be aware of, once posted it is out there forever and could affect future employment opportunities.

So what do we need to consider BEFORE we post? The Office of eSafety recommends the following:

1. Consider Public and Private – in public, you can take photos provided that you do not make a nuisance of yourself or are being offensive. However when you are at a private place, for example at school assembly, you need to follow the rules about photography. **At Vermont Primary School, you may take photographs/videos of your own child, but should not post those that contain other students without the express permission of their parents.**

2. Always Think before you post – who will be able to see it? Are there identifying details in the photo such as street names, school names, landmarks etc?

3. Have you checked your Privacy Settings? This is something you need to do regularly particularly after updating your device and/or app. Visit the eSafety Games, apps and social networking page for further information on privacy settings. Geolocation is also something to be aware of – check your device to see which apps are using this function and turn it off where possible.

4. Finally, are there Alternate Ways to share your photos and videos? Email and or messaging may be a more secure way of sharing those snap shots with only the intended audience.

Protecting our digital reputation and that of our children is increasingly important and something we need to teach explicitly. As always, please do not hesitate to contact or visit me if you would like further information on this or any other cyber safety issue.
You can use the QR code or link at the top of the article to let me know you have read it.

Julie Hall
eSmart Co-ordinator
hall.julie.j1@edumail.vic.gov.au