



## **Cyber safety and Family Zone - Susan McLean and Jessica Hill (Family Zone)**

### **Facts for you to be aware of:**

- There can be a gap between cognitive understanding and what the students can physically do with technology
- We encourage you to look up the statistics of “what happens in an internet minute”. This may be very enlightening for you
- Susan also made us aware of the alarming statistic that 50% of 9 year olds have viewed pornography and 52% of girls have been asked for a nude picture of themselves. These pictures can be held at “ransom” and people can demand money for them or else they will spread them online
- It has been stated that 70% of boys have viewed pornography by 12 years of age and 100% of boys (could be accidentally) by age 15. It has also been stated that 80% of 15 year old girls have (again potentially by mistake) viewed pornography.
- Australia is number one on the list in prevalence in viewing pornography on mobile phones
- Along with this, Susan informed us that digital reputation checks can be completed by potential employers and this could be the case for schools. In regards to this, it’s important to note that Susan mentioned that nothing can be truly deleted once it has been placed online. Please remember that posts, photos and comments can potentially be found years later and it is crucial that children have this understanding and are trained how to use technology wisely

### **Practical parenting**

- It is so important that you are an active participant in your child’s online life. Susan encouraged us that parenting doesn’t necessarily always involve making decisions that please children. Instead, she encouraged us to remain faithful to laws that benefit children (such as age restrictions on social media sites) and to remain strong on boundaries. We as a College strongly believe that understanding must underpin the decisions children make. So, giving them “the why behind the what” is important in your deliberation with your children.
- In regards to passwords, it is important that children keep this to themselves. Not only can their information be seen by strangers, but information can be sent on their behalf which could set off a range of very difficult issues
- Remember that any device with two way communication can be dangerous when used the wrong way.
- If, after being active in your child’s online use, you become aware that your child has come across material or persons relating to this area, it is important to build trust between you and your children. This may mean not reacting in an aggressive manner but talking things through in a measured and fashion and asking them questions about this.
- “Smart phones” can be turned into basic phones
- You may look into your child’s device under such links as “Settings, then general restrictions, then entering a four digit code. You may also choose to look into the “location services” area of your child’s device in settings
- Susan encourage attendees that parents don’t necessarily need to be their child’s “best friend” but it’s important for them to parent and say no

### **Apps, sites and strangers: Please read carefully**

- To give you an idea of the sorts of things that have been happening in schools across the world, students have reportedly arranged “Tinder” dating which can lead to damaging consequences
- Susan discussed the dangers of befriending strangers online, even if they say they are a “friend of a friend”. These people may seem “nice” to begin with and result in a “friend request”. However, their identity may be different to what they propose and the result could be very damaging
- Susan instructed that, if your child has come across suspicious behaviour online from an individual or groups, to take a screen shot of the chat/information, log off and do not engage with the



suspect(s). Do not close off your child's account as the police may use this for further investigation. Contact the police and let them take over

- "Sexting" is an activity where sexually explicit material of oneself is sent to another party. This can be classified as being criminal activity. Even having a copy of such material can be classed as being a crime and police action can take place
- Online grooming can take place through various avenues such as games and online dating sites. It's important that this can happen wherever a device has two way communication. Please be an active participant in your child's online use by checking their apps and seriously consider taking up Family Zone on your devices at home. This can be life changing.
- You may see games on your child's device, however, please be aware that these may not just be games. Two way communication may occur during these games, therefore the above situations may potentially arise. Sites to keep a look out for are Roblox, Minecraft, Periscope, Live.me, Liv.ly and more.
- Eating disorders and self-harm can also be promoted online
- Decoy apps assist people to hide content such as "hide it pro". If you check your child's device and 80% of its' memory is being taken up by, for example, their calculator, this is an indicator that a decoy app is being used
- Sites such as "Yubo encourage people to talk to strangers. It has been stated that the tag line for this site is "Tinder for Teens"

### **Family Zone**

- Jessica Hill from Family Zone spoke about the Family Zone App.
- There are various options that can be viewed on the link given
- Jessica suggested keeping the lines of communication open at home about device content. E.g. "What app would you like and why?"
- The College **strongly recommends** that you invest into this product. It is a very effective tool that can assist you to monitor your child's device and protect them from potential harm. At the very least, please click on the Family Zone link, see what it can do and if you have any questions please contact Family Zone or Todd Sprague at the College.

We look forward to continually partnering with you to protect our students and help them to use technology and cyberspace well.

Regards,

Todd Mahoney  
Director of Wellbeing



## Protecting students

At school, at home  
and everywhere  
in between





Removes adult content for safe searching.



Manage use of social apps and in-app purchasing.



Set routines for what they can access, when - plus give devices sleep times.



Family Zone app and router works across every device, everywhere.

## Plenty Valley Christian College is proud to partner with Family Zone

Family Zone is a complete online cyber safety solution that protects your kids at school, at home and where they are out and about.

Simple to set up, easy to use, and supported by a team of cyber experts, if your kids are online you need Family Zone.

For more information visit:

[familyzone.com/plentyvic](https://familyzone.com/plentyvic)



**15<sup>th</sup> March | Cyber Safety Information Evening** *with Cyber Expert Susan McLean*