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Digital Citizenship

I could not believe it when, in January of 2011, Treasury Board President Tony Clements insulted a Parry Sound teenager through Twitter.[1] I might expect this of kids, but of a grown man? A politician? Shouldn't he have known better? And what about Anthony Weiner's sexting scandal? It's easy to shake our heads at what we might consider someone's stupidity, but then crushing stories such as the suicides of Amanda Todd and Rehtaeh Parsons[2] over cyberbullying bring the potential implications of online behaviour to a crashing reality.

As our schools and libraries use more and more technology and access the internet on a regular basis, it is essential that we teach our students how to behave online and how to protect themselves and their privacy. The following sites are just a few that educators can reference and use as they begin to consider how to incorporate the various elements of Digital Citizenship into their lessons and the curriculum.

Common Sense Media
www.commonsensemedia.org/
educators/curriculum
Common Sense Media provides educators with a wealth of resources that include educational videos, lesson plans, classroom posters, and curriculum toolkits. Their digital literacy & citizenship curriculum is designed to empower students to think critically, behave safely, and participate responsibly in the digital world.

Their interactive Scope & Sequence is a fantastic resource that helps educators find lessons and tools that are appropriate for different grades. You can search the lessons by grade band or by category.

Other areas of the site include Professional Development, Educating Families, Videos and Lesson Toolkits.

MediaSmarts
www.mediasmarts.ca
MediaSmarts is a Canadian not-for-profit charitable organization for digital and media literacy. Their vision is that all

children and youth have the critical thinking skills to engage with media as active and informed digital citizens. This site is jam-packed with amazing resources including lessons, games, videos, and activities. The Teacher Resources section is a great place to start as it includes resources such as tip sheets, games, and lesson kits.

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[1] "Tony Clement apologizes for slamming teen on Twitter - Politics ..." 2013. 14 Oct. 2013 <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/tony-clement-apologizes-for-slamming-teen-on-twitter-1.1295939/>

[2] "A year since, the case of Amanda Todd still holds lessons." 2013. 14 Oct. 2013 <http://www.thestar.com/opinion/commentary/2013/10/10/a_year_since_the_case_of_amanda_todd_still_holds_lessons.html>

[3] "Calgary Board of Education - Learning Innovation." 2012. 23 Sep. 2013 <http://www.cbe.ab.ca/learninginnovation/digitalsafety-digitalcitizenship.asp>

[4] "Nine Elements - Digital Citizenship." 2008. 23 Sep. 2013 <http://digitalcitizenship.net/Nine_Elements.html>

Be sure to visit the Research & Policy section also where you can read recent studies such as Young Canadians in a Wired World – Phase III Teachers' Perspectives, and Young Canadians in a Wired World, Phase III: Talking to Youth and Parents about Life Online

In addition to the interactive games, the e-Tutorials are also worth a visit. The e-Parenting Tutorial: Keeping up with your kids' online activities is excellent and goes through topics such as Online Research & Homework, Online Relationships, and Too Much Time Online.

Digital Passport™
www.digitalpassport.org/educator/materials
Digital Passport™ is a free online suite of videos, games, and collaborative classroom activities from Common Sense Media. It is intended for students in grades 3-5 and is designed to address key issues facing students in today's digital world. Each module comes with an easy-to-follow educator's guide. Students earn badges as they work towards earning a

Digital Passport and an assessment tool is built into the site for teachers to access and reference.

A fantastic site to use with students.

Digital Citizenship Program
http://dcp.lbpsb.qc.ca
The Lester B. Pearson School Board in Quebec has designed a Digital Citizenship Curriculum for students from K-12. The program is broken into 4 categories - Communication, Awareness, Safety & Health, and Information Literacy. A useful parent section is also included.

The curriculum map breaks the categories down into 12 topics that include topics such as sending emails, texting, cyberbullying, copyright, buying & selling good online. The curriculum map is available in both English and French.
The Teacher Resource section provides lessons under various curriculum areas that are intended to compliment what teachers are already teaching in their

classrooms. Resources include lessons, unit plans, and activities.

Digital Citizenship: Using Technology Appropriately
www.digitalcitizenship.net
What is Digital Citizenship? Digital Citizenship is having the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to demonstrate responsible and respectful behaviour when using technology or participating in digital environments. Digital citizenship goes beyond e-mail etiquette and avoiding plagiarism to encompass all elements of digital engagement, including how to find and evaluate information, respecting copyright, protecting private information, staying safe online, and knowing how to deal with potential cyber-bullying.[3]

In his research, Mike Ribble identifies nine Elements of Digital Citizenship.[4] Digital Citizenship encompasses many different themes including Digital Access, Digital Communication, Digital Commerce, Digital Literacy, Digital Law, Digital Rights & Responsibilities, Digital

Health & Wellness, Digital Security and Digital Etiquette.

This is the first site you need to visit as it provides a brief overview of Ribble's 9 Elements, links to research, articles and lots of additional resources.

NetSmartz
www.netsmartz.org
EducatorsNetSmartz Workshop is an interactive, educational program of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® that provides resources to help teach children how to be safer on- and offline. The program is designed for children ages 5-17, parents and guardians, educators, and law enforcement.

This site focuses in particular on Digital Security as the site's goals include educating children on how to recognize potential Internet risks and empowering children to help prevent themselves from being exploited and to report victimization to a trusted adult. Resources include videos, games, activity cards, and presentations.

Get Cyber Safe
www.getcybersafe.gc.ca
Get Cyber Safe is a national public awareness campaign created by the Canadian Government to educate Canadians about Internet security and the simple steps they can take to protect themselves online. This site is not directed specifically at children or educators, but there are a number of useful resources that include a Cyber Safe Toolkit, posters, tip sheets, videos, and infographics.

Categories include knowing the risks of online activities, understanding how to protect yourself (such as your identity and money), and how to protect your devices.

Google Digital Literacy and Citizenship Curriculum
www.google.com/goodtoknow/web/curriculum
Google has partnered with the iKeepSafe organization (www.ikeepsafe. org) and educators to develop lessons to use in the classroom that will help students know how to think critically and evaluate online resources, understand how to protect themselves online, and how to be good digital citizens.

These practical and useful guides are divided into three "classes" with a series of lessons in each class.

Class 1: Become an Online Sleuth
Class 2: Manage your Digital Footprint
Class 3: Identify Tricks and Scams Online

Google Curriculum: Understanding YouTube & Digital Citizenship
www.google.com/edu/teachers/youtube/curric/
Google has also devised an interactive curriculum aimed to support teachers of secondary students (approximately ages 13-17) understand how to work and use YouTube.

The curriculum helps educate students on topics like:

• YouTube's policies
• How to report content on YouTube
• How to protect their privacy online
• How to be responsible YouTube community members
• How to be responsible digital citizens ▮