

## **Wireless In Schools and Internet Safety**

The use of new wireless technologies in our classrooms can significantly enrich the learning experience for our children. An important associated benefit is that this provides an opportunity for students to bring personally owned devices such as iPods, iPhones and laptops to school to support their learning. The risks associated with inappropriate access to web sites exist for students while at home, at the community library or at a friend's house, as well as within our schools. We must focus on the need to educate our children and give them the necessary skills in order to use the internet safely and appropriately.

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### **Goals:**

1. Provide wireless access for our students in all of our schools in order to enrich their learning experience.
2. Provide an opportunity for students to bring personally owned devices to school to support learning.
3. Teach students safe, responsible behavior and choices when using internet resources.
4. Teach students to carefully assess the strengths and weakness of internet resources as credible sources of information.
5. To provide parents with supports that assist with the safety and security of personally owned student devices (laptops, iPods, iPhones).

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### **Benefits of Wireless Access**

The use of new wireless technologies in our classrooms can significantly enrich the learning experience for our children:

- access documents and email they personally manage and integrate those with their school courses
- conduct research for school projects
- contribute to online class discussions
- do homework before class, at lunch or afterschool using online resources
- have a whole network of people they can tap into for feedback on an issue
- have better access to online interactive learning objects by using their own technology in class (reduce the ratio of student to computers in classes where we do not provide 1-to-1)
- practice PATS (provincial achievement tests)
- review and re-enforce material present in online self checks or review quizzes
- review difficult concepts by having access to videos created or selected by the teacher for that purpose

- share material they have created and posted online with their peers Online classroom in e-Community
- submit content to class blogs
- take more responsibility for their achievements by checking their grades online and catching missed assignments sooner
- take more responsibility for their progress and learning by checking course schedules and outlines
- use of personal equipment at school increases the likelihood of using such technology at home for educational purposes
- using personal equipment at school increases the connection between home and school
- using personal owned devices (PODs) like iPod touch to connect instantly and find the answer to a question, without having to wait for the teacher
- view, complete, and submit assignments in eCommunity.

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### **Supports for Teachers and Parents**

- A website has been created on the PWSD Parent Resources Site to host information regarding Web Safety. The site is found on the PWSD site under “Parent Resources”.

<http://www.pwsd76.ab.ca/Resources/elearning/Pages/default.aspx>

- A presentation to school Administrators regarding wireless access in their schools and Web Safety took place at the December 1<sup>st</sup> Admin. meeting.
- Presentation to Trustees at Dec 10 Board Meeting.
- Encourage conversation and a presentation of the PWSD Parent Resources website at school council meetings in each of our schools over the next month.
- Presentation and possible workshop with parents at the General School Council meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
- Work directly with teachers to support use of resources on internet safety.
- Workshops for teachers will be presented over the next four months regarding Web Safety based on the following possible topics:
  - Cyber bullying: Encouraging Ethical Behavior Online
  - Kids for Sale: Online Privacy & Marketing to Kids
  - Growing with the Net (Ages 4-12): Developmental Approach to Children’s Internet Use
  - Fact or Folly: Authenticating Online Information
  - Safe Passage: Teaching Kids to be Safe and Responsible online