



# Westview Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Dear Parents

As a community we all play an important role in working together to keep our students safe, both in person and online. In today's world it is extremely important that we are taking a proactive approach to explicitly teach students about the dangers they may encounter online, what to look for and how to stay safe. We know that during this global pandemic students are spending even more time online than ever before. While we continue to encourage parents to limit screen time, provide a balance with outdoor play, have open conversations with children in their care about their online presence and become informed about tools and settings that can be employed in their children's devices to ensure they are safe, we know that we must also arm our students with this knowledge and understanding. This learning builds on expectations in the Ontario Health and Physical Education curriculum, promoting safe, positive and social interactions online.

**On December 7, 8 and 9** we are very fortunate to welcome Miranda Jurilj, a Public Education Co-ordinator for SACHA. SACHA is a feminist, non-profit, community-based organization that provides supports to people who have experienced sexualized violence at any point in their lives. They work to end violence and oppression through education, advocacy, outreach, coalition building, community partnerships, and activism. This presentation will

- teach students red flags to look for and the warning signs that an unsafe online interaction is occurring
- educate students that it is not their fault and talk about where they can turn for support
- their rights when it comes to personal safety
- what options they have should they encounter an issue online
- practical and proactive strategies to stay safe in an online setting.

The school will have staff onsite for any students who may need to talk or debrief following the presentation.

If you have any questions, or you do not want your child to participate, please inform our student's homeroom teacher.

Joanna Crapsi, Principal