

# Technology Bits & Pieces



September 2009

## Hello New Families and Welcome Back Returning Families!

I hope you had a wonderful summer. I had relaxing summer that was filled with growth opportunities both personally and professionally. I am excited to begin this year and would like to thank everyone for the new state of the art computers in the lab. They will enhance both the curriculum and technological opportunities for the children.

St. Croix Catholic School provides a safe learning environment and we realize that the Internet can be an area of concern. We specifically address this with our Acceptable Use Policy, filters, and other technological solutions. Additionally, during computer class students participate in lessons specifically designed to promote Internet Safety and best practices for Internet usage. We encourage parents to discuss Internet Safety with their child and monitor their at home usage of the Internet. Some Web sites offer parental or family guidance for **Internet safety**; for example, SafeKids.com, located online at <http://www.safekids.com>. In the lab we will be using a combination of two curriculums that meet the National Educational Technology Standards and are designed around safe computer usage and preparation for Twenty-first Century challenges and Web 2.0 skills.

~ Nancy Donlon, Computer Teacher

## SEPTEMBER



This month our technology focus is on safety and security online. Students will talk about rules for using the computer, privacy and safety.

### Kindergarten & First Grade

Students will go on a virtual field trip to a zoo and explore a variety of animals. Kindergarten will explore animals at the New York Bronx Zoo through podcasts. The First Grade virtual field trip will take them to the Henson Robinson Zoo where they will experience the zoo by navigating their tour using a

map. They will also have the opportunity to experience Quicktime VR.

**Internet Safety rule: Take an Adult with you when you travel on the Internet.**

### Second & Third Grade

Students will understand the reason for rules as we discuss the acceptable use policy, and private and personal information. Students will explore some “favorite character sites” that ask them to fill-in information forms and learn to identify personal and private information.

**Internet Safety rule: Don't give out personal information and always ask parent permission before filling out a form.**

## 4th Grade Classes

Students will discuss and evaluate password security and develop rules for setting up and handling their account passwords. We will also review the Acceptable Use policy regarding password privileges and responsibilities. Students will create



password do's and don't pictures that they will convert into jigsaw puzzles using the online website Jigsaw Planet.

**Internet Safety rule: Your password is your key to the Internet and personal safety. Do not share your key with anyone other than your parents.**

## 5th Grade Classes

Students will examine websites to discover the privacy policy, what it means and whether the site has a privacy approval seal. We will also discuss the law regarding privacy for children under 13. The sites that students will evaluate are: Club Penguin, Nickelodeon, Yahoo! Kids and Nintendo.



**Internet Safety rule: Don't give out personal information and always ask parent permission before filling out a form.**



## 6th Grade Classes

Students will evaluate online messaging, social networking, spam, and attachments that can pose a threat to online safety and security. They will develop strategies for responsible use and handling security challenges and create a comic or cartoon that demonstrates how to handle security threats.

**Internet Safety rule: Look before you leap.**

- If you don't know the sender don't open the message.
- \*Be sure you know what new software does before you download it and watch out for attachments.
- \*What you write online today can haunt you tomorrow. Be careful and responsible in your communication.
- \*Protect your private identity information.

## Important September Needs

### All Parents

We are in need of CD headphones in the computer lab for student use.



Many of the programs the students interact with on the computer use sound and it becomes quite difficult for students to hear when

all the computers are speaking at once.

If you are able to donate headphones please drop them off in the office in the box labeled "computer lab."

### 6th Grade Parents

In addition to Internet Safety and Security we will begin a unit this month on. Fonts, Styles and Design.

Your child will need a complete **Sunday St. Paul Pioneer Press Newspaper** by September 14th.

