

Feb PAC meeting
Feb 25th 7-8:30pm

Speaker Jesse Miller on social media

We all use media all the time.

When children are online, they might be replacing talking to adults who can give them some of the same information. Technology can also separate kids lives from their parents - kids can text without the parent overhearing a phone call. A family can all be online without talking to each other.

If there is no online access at home, fast food restarants often have wifi. Kids seeking connection might check their phones 24 hours a day. Kids don't text while playing sports, but do while driving.

We can all now access information that was previously only accessible by the police.

Employers can keep tabs on their employees based on what they do online. Kids will share things on line that can make a difference to their employability.

How are kids connecting?

We live in a mobile content sharing society

Kids use: smart phones, ipod or tablet without phone

Kids build a brand name on line. Social media platforms include a handle, username, actual name or website identifier. Whether they use their real name or a fake name, real age or fake age, they are still attached to that identity online (and it is easy to cross reference to their real name).

Kids are doing what we used to do, but now it all goes online, and the evidence lives on. They are all like reporters. Kids today share online what they do everyday - they are expressing themselves and building identity. There is social pressure among kids to be the first one to share a photo, or get the account.

Many of us think that once we delete something from an account it has gone, but it is still online somewhere, even if it is deep.

Grade 10s send about 6500 text messages a month.

Females text more than males on average.

Texting/messaging while driving is really common.

Top 4 used applications by youth:

Twitter, facebook, shapchat, instagram

Instagram (owned by facebook):

Photo sharing mobile application. Very easy to share information. People use instagram to take photos in war zones - used in a positive way it can change things. Right now the focus in on personal use.

Twitter:

Allows us to share messages and images. Static and mobile micro-blogging website. Limited information - can share a small amount of text (limited to 140 characters) which can lead to more

information. A lot of kids share personal information, but follow professionals, using twitter. Justin Beiber has 35 million people following his twitter.

Facebook:

Static and mobile connectivity. Largest social media platform. Kids have left facebook because parents have accounts too. Crosses business with personal. Personal pages have become a business issue because employers can keep track of what their employees are doing on “sick days”. Facebook graph allows you to see how people connect. Kids lie about their ages (as also gmail) to get on facebook.

Snapchat:

Send photos and they will “removed” in 10 seconds. On terms of use says they can’t guarantee that it will be removed. Also the receiver can capture the photo then send it on. So the photos are not really removed.

Why take photos that you only want to share for a short time? Thinking that they are gone soon, younger users take covert photos of other’s houses, and each other. The same photos are found on facebook and twitter.

What online media means for youth

A child can be deep into social media and the parents have no idea they are so connected and followed by so many others. “It has turned into something bigger” is a quote often heard from parents. Parents need to talk to their kids about social media events and online groups.

Parents need to know where their kids go online, and need to be more involved if kids are acting online in a way that they don’t want parents to see. Kids are sharing everything, and are often looking for something dramatic. Kids see stuff online that they expect to happen in real life e.g. pornography. “Sext Up Kids” documentary (made in BC, and includes Jesse Miller) discusses how kids see sexual imagery and pressure from a very young age.

We all need to understand the technology better before sharing our information. We need to know who we are sharing with (often the world). Using accounts that you pay for are usually more secure. Parents need to teach, or find someone to teach, their kids how to go online in a healthy way. It comes down to the relationship with the parents.

Kids that are on the fringes of their social group may turn to social media. Social media and how it relates to mental health is an area that needs more attention.

RIP pages on Facebook increasingly common. People can have more people paying attention to them on the internet after they are dead than when they were alive. Amanda Todd became the third most searched thing on the internet. We do need to talk about it, rather than hide it.

What next?

We are in a transition stage with technology: technology is being used by younger and younger students; smaller technology and bigger device capabilities means that more and more is posted online.

Do we need to teach ethics at younger ages?