

LYNX TRACKS

The Newsletter of the Lincolnville Central School

<http://www.fivetowns.net/lcs>

OCTOBER 25, 2018

Volume IX, Issue #8



Deana's Educational Theater Performs at LCS

Bus Stop, a 40 minute performance followed by a 20 minute, interactive discussion led by the actors was performed today for our middle school students. The play is intended to help students recognize the different types of cyberbullying and the lasting implications of what is posted online (reputation, school, career, etc.), and the consequences of posting material on social media. The program emphasizes the important role everyone has in preventing bullying and making our school community a safe and respectful place for all.

Bus Stop is produced and directed by Deana's Educational Theater started by a woman who was a victim of dating violence. The organization provides theater & arts-based educational programs to schools and communities all over the world. Deana's Educational Theater is a non-profit organization based in Wakefield, MA that is dedicated to promoting healthy relationships.

Thank you to our guidance counselor, Elyzabeth Richards who collaborated with Haley Fallon and Kelly O'Connor of New Hope for Women to bring this important programming to LCS.

What is Cyberbullying?

We know what bullying is. It's repeated aggression, verbal, psychological or physical behavior by an individual or group against others. It's been a problem since the day dot, it's always wrong and it should never be overlooked or ignored.

Cyberbullying is the same, yet slightly different, and, some would argue, more dangerous. Cyberbullies use the Internet,

mobile phones and other technologies to inflict psychological harm on their targets.

Cyberbullying can take so many different forms. Sending mean or threatening messages, emails, photos or video clips, posting nasty messages to social networking sites, message boards, or chat rooms, setting up fake profiles to say bad things about someone or accessing someone's account repeatedly

Dates to Remember:

10/26 Hat Day
10/30 Pumpkin Carving 3-4PM
10/31 K-2 Halloween Parade 1:45PM
11/06 Skating @MRC 3-4:45PM
11/07 PTO Meeting
11/08 Early Release 11:30AM
11/08 Parent Teacher Conferences

PTO Notes:

- ✚ Deadline to turn in wreath sale forms is NOVEMBER 1ST.
- ✚ William Powers won the Box Tops raffle, an Uncle Willy's gift card.
- ✚ PTO thanks everyone for their support - we had over 120 attendees at Friday's Movie Night, and 47 skaters attended after school skate at the MRC on Tuesday.

Dictionaries for 3rd Grade

A big thank you goes out to the Lincolnville Grange for the donation of dictionaries for all of the third graders. Thank you to Kayla Lacombe for delivering them and also to her mother, Terry Lee LaCombe-Stevens for organizing the effort. This donation was made through the Dictionary Project, which provides various literacy resources for children to call their own to encourage learning.

www.dictionaryproject.org

to make trouble for them are all part of what constitutes bullying online.

The Internet is full of nasty messages. Many, however, are once off and do not constitute bullying. Cyberbullying is a repeated and sustained campaign of behavior, which has a serious negative impact on the well-being of the victim. And it's important that we remember: cyberbullying is not a problem of technology; it's a behavioral issue!

SCREEN AGERS

School Closing Information

In the event that we need to close early, or cancel school due to weather conditions please know that communication is very important to us.

Cancellations will be reported on the Internet at

📌 VillageSoup.com

📌 <http://www.fivetowns.net/lcs>

📌 LCS Facebook page

On television:

📌 WLBZ,

📌 WABI,

📌 WCSH,

📌 WMTW

Radio:

📌 The Zone 100.3

In addition, we will send out phone calls, text messages, and emails to all parents who have shared updated contact information with us.

If you have recently made a change to your contact information please notify us so we can be sure to have the most up to date information.

Grades 6 and 7 to Visit Space on November 13th

Thanks to the generosity of our friends at Partners For Enrichment, these students will be travelling to Challenger Learning Center in Bangor for a little hands on space experience and the Emera Astronomy Center and Jordan Planetarium at the University of Maine.

The Challenger Learning Center Space Mission Simulator offers visitors the next best thing to actual space flight with a Mission Control room designed after the NASA Johnson Space Center and Space Lab modeled after the laboratory on the International Space Station. During a space mission, astronauts in the Space Lab Simulator work with their counterparts in the Mission Control Simulator to fly one of three simulated space missions: Rendezvous with a Comet, Return to the Moon and Earth from Orbit.

The Planetarium will offer a free one hour program to the students.

Last year Snapchat introduced Snap Map, a cartoon-looking map with Bitmojis of users positioned at their real-life locations. At first, I thought this would not catch on because kids would know that sharing their location widely is not safe. I was wrong. The Snap Map function is used by most teens who use the app.

It goes one step further than just showing where the kid is; it also can virtually show what they are actually doing. A Bitmoji is selected by Snapchat to represent what the user is doing. If they are at a concert or listening to music, the Bitmoji might have headphones on. If they are at the gym or exercising, their Bitmoji might have exercise clothes and sneakers. If they are asleep, it shows them with little zzz's or in a bed.

There's also a function called Map Explore that allows you to scroll through the map to see where your friends are headed. These updates are generated by Snapchat users moving around rather than typing in their locations. You can actually watch as your friend moves from one place to another.

The positive way to look at this is that some kids use the map to find their friends to meet up with them in real life, and encouraging real-life interaction is often a good thing. But, in no uncertain terms, I want to say that I am concerned that so many of our kids and teens are pinpointing people's exact location, including home addresses and street names. This raises a lot of red flags. As we know, the word "friend" can mean anything from a true bestie to a complete stranger.

Keeping our kids safe online is no easy task and Snap Map makes it even harder. It not only compromises the privacy and security of the kids using it, but it can also exacerbate feelings of being left out. Imagine you are at home using Snapchat and you see a group of your friends at someone else's house on Snap Map. "Why wasn't I invited," you think. Whether it was intentional or not, the feeling of being left out is an immediate blow.

When you first activate Snap Map, you are asked if you want to share your location with all of your friends, some of your friends or remain private in Ghost Mode. If they have already started using Snap Map, they can change their privacy setting to Ghost Mode by going to the photo taking mode and pinching their screen to get to Snap Map.

Once there, they click on the settings wheel and select Ghost Mode to turn off location sharing. They will be able to see where other people are but no one will see them.

I firmly believe that Snap Map has more downsides than upsides. The challenge is that many youths do use it. Therefore, when talking with your kids and teens about this, I suggest entering the conversation from a place of curiosity rather than a place of heavy-handedness. This will increase the chance that they come to understand that the downsides outweigh any upsides. It might be that you create a rule specifying Ghost Mode even if they disagree with it. They might not be happy at the moment, but chances are someday they will be thankful for the decision.

Here are some questions to get you started:

- What positives do think there are with Snap Map?
- What negatives do you think there are?
- How is safety compromised if someone can see where you are and what you are doing? If someone can determine your home address?

Many kids and teens do indeed use the Ghost Mode (my two teens do) and do you think this makes sense for you? Even if they do not understand it at this point, you can tell them that you want the rule to be that they are in Ghost Mode.

Stay in touch with the Screenagers Community on Facebook, Twitter and at www.screenagersmovie.com. We encourage you to share this, and other TTTs, widely with your community. You are welcome to republish this in your newsletters as long as you credit us and put a link to our TTT page. If you do this please let us know.

Warmly,

Delaney Ruston, MD
Screenagers' Filmmaker
www.screenagersmovie.com
415-450-9585