

"Lots of people will say things online that they wouldn't say in person. They don't see the reaction of how their words affect people. They are hiding behind their keyboard and screen, so they don't have to face the consequences of what they create."

~ Grade 6 Student

Be Smarter

How to be Safe and Happy Online

Navigating the digital world is tricky. It is even trickier for our youth: it is part of their everyday life, with seemingly no specific restrictions or rules. We all use, play, and interact with others through digital devices. The digital world is integrated into our lives and is always at our fingertips. But how can we use it safely while still enjoying it?

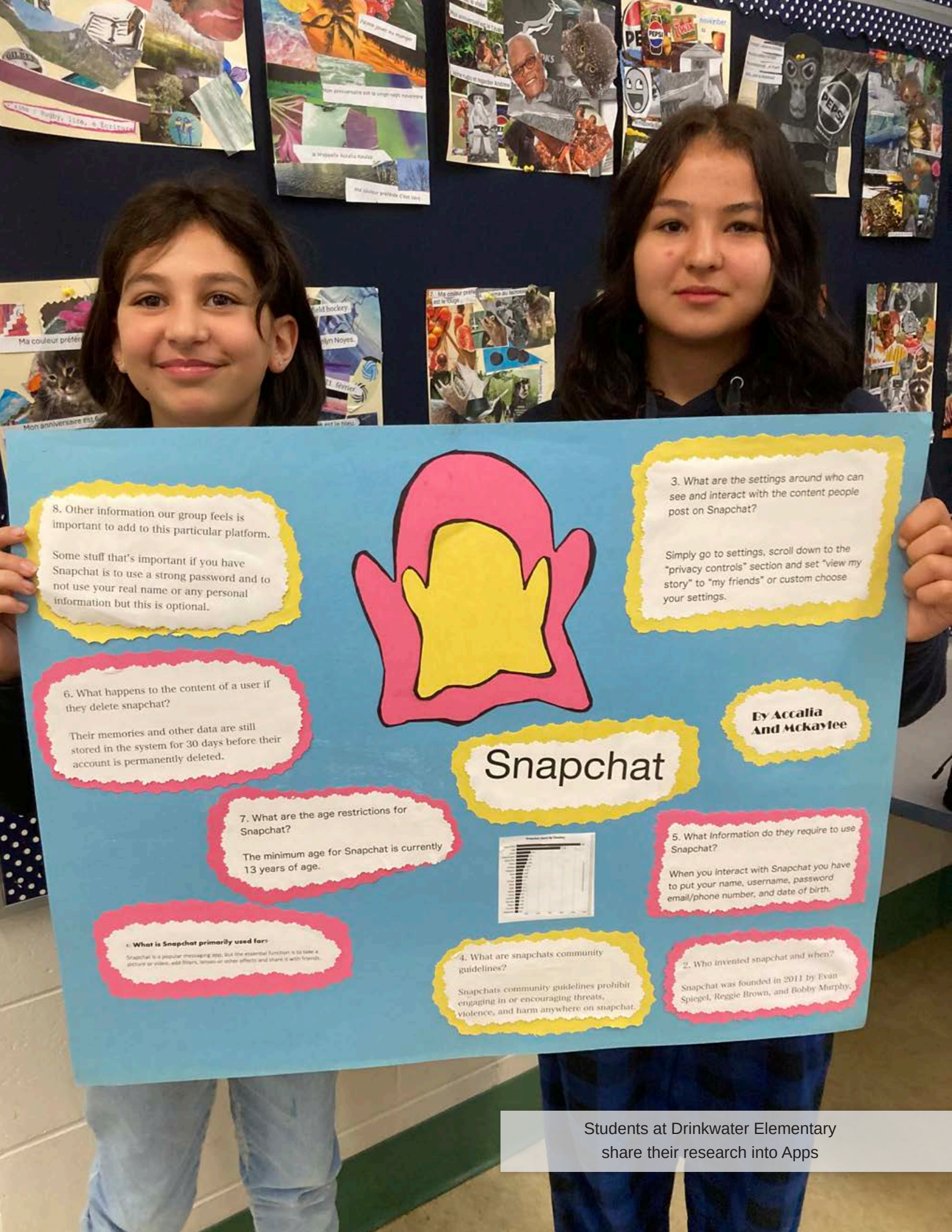
In the public education system, we have found that the school is often called upon to help problem-solve issues that arise from misguided digital interactions. In recent years, the problem-solving scenarios have increased and become more complex. Our students are clearly demonstrating how at risk they are to predators, scams, cyberbullies ... and each other.

by

Rhonda Rose

Vice-Principal

SD 79 (Cowichan Valley)



8. Other information our group feels is important to add to this particular platform.

Some stuff that's important if you have Snapchat is to use a strong password and to not use your real name or any personal information but this is optional.

6. What happens to the content of a user if they delete snapchat?

Their memories and other data are still stored in the system for 30 days before their account is permanently deleted.

7. What are the age restrictions for Snapchat?

The minimum age for Snapchat is currently 13 years of age.

1. What is Snapchat primarily used for?

Snapchat is a popular messaging app, but the essential function is to take a picture or video, add filters, lenses or other effects and share it with friends.

4. What are snapchats community guidelines?

Snapchats community guidelines prohibit engaging in or encouraging threats, violence, and harm anywhere on snapchat.

5. What Information do they require to use Snapchat?

When you interact with Snapchat you have to put your name, username, password email/phone number, and date of birth.

2. Who invented snapchat and when?

Snapchat was founded in 2011 by Evan Spiegel, Reggie Brown, and Bobby Murphy.

3. What are the settings around who can see and interact with the content people post on Snapchat?

Simply go to settings, scroll down to the "privacy controls" section and set "view my story" to "my friends" or custom choose your settings.



Snapchat

By Accalia
And Mckaylee



"You must be careful because a friend may not always be your friend, and an enemy may not always be your enemy."

~ Grade 5 Student

At our school, Drinkwater Elementary in the Cowichan Valley, each issue has been addressed as it occurred, but as we walked students through the resolutions to problems arising from their digital interactions at home and school, the students *themselves* began to recognize that there were rules they needed to follow.

It was this acknowledgment from the students that led teachers to pose a challenge: the creation of a Digital Citizenship Code of Conduct that would provide the guidelines necessary for online safety.

The challenge was accepted by six divisions of students in grades 5-7. The students asked guiding questions, and the teachers presented important learning opportunities through their answers. The classes used learning, completed over several months, to determine which rules were important for others to know and to follow. Through assessment of student essays explaining why a Code of Conduct was important to them, two students were then chosen by teachers from each division. Those representatives committed to work on their own time, outside the school schedule. In this smaller group,

they collated and refined the rules that each division had suggested. Twelve students worked for weeks debating, rewording, and creating the Code that they then sent back to each division for feedback and final approval. Once all divisions approved the final Code, it was presented to the school administration.

Coincidentally, the day the students presented the Code was the same day the Minister of Education and Child Care announced that cell phone policies needed to be in place in each district. *How timely!* Their work was accepted as the Code for the school to use.

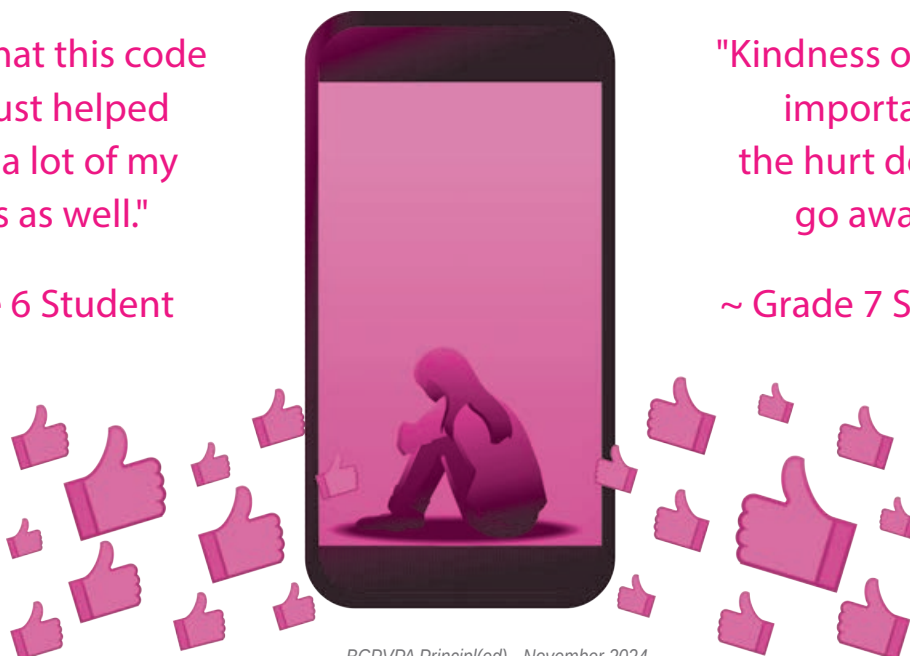
Every student from each division created a 'product' designed to share the Digital Citizenship Code of Conduct. These included brochures, posters, videos, and skits. The student representatives presented these projects to the Board of Education and senior staff of Cowichan Valley School District (SD 79). The representatives' request to the Board was that the student's Digital Citizenship Code of Conduct be adopted or incorporated into the district's code for every school, and that their work be shared at the provincial level.

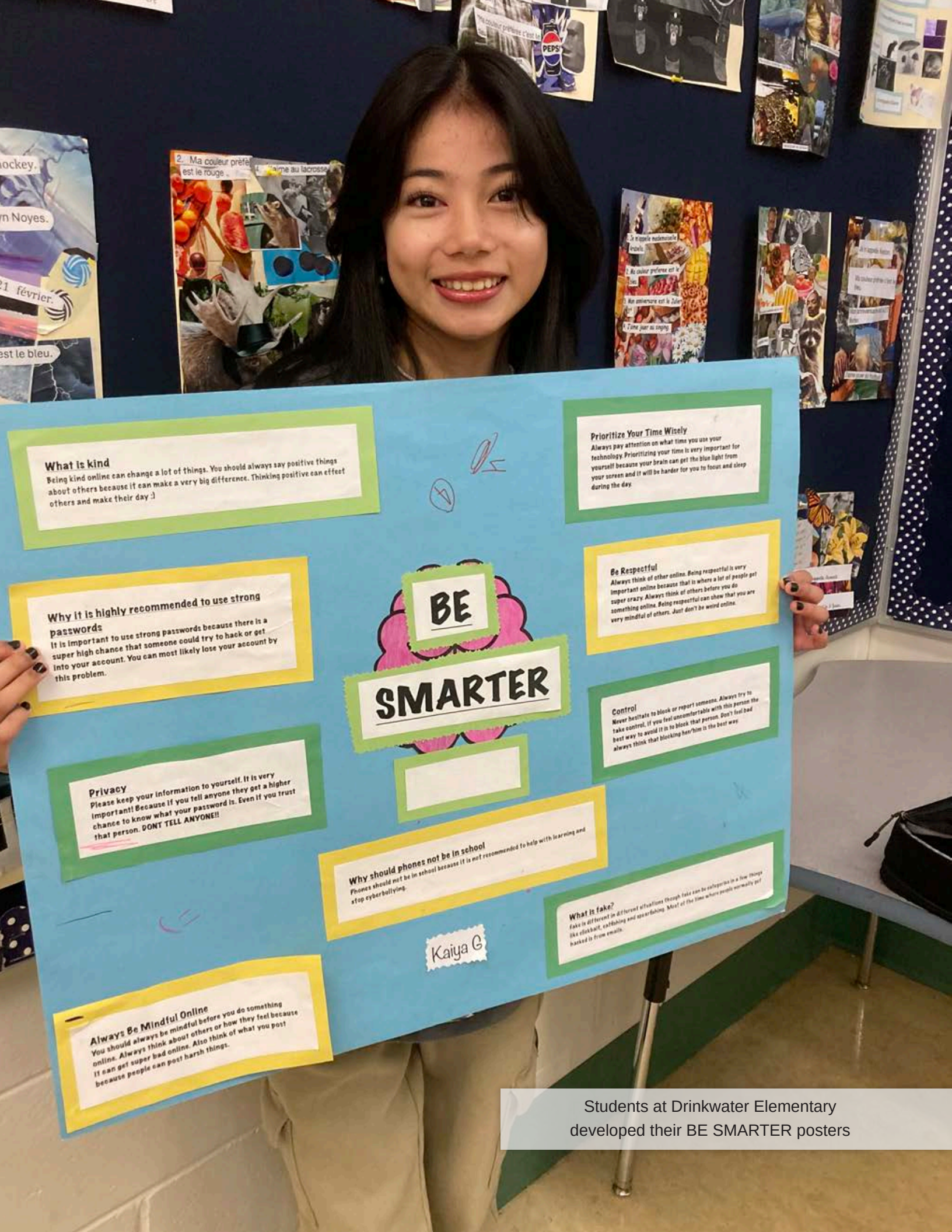
"I found that this code hasn't just helped me, but a lot of my friends as well."

~ Grade 6 Student

"Kindness online is important; the hurt doesn't go away."

~ Grade 7 Student





What is kind

Being kind online can change a lot of things. You should always say positive things about others because it can make a very big difference. Thinking positive can effect others and make their day :)

Why it is highly recommended to use strong passwords

It is important to use strong passwords because there is a super high chance that someone could try to hack or get into your account. You can most likely lose your account by this problem.

Privacy

Please keep your information to yourself. It is very important! Because if you tell anyone they get a higher chance to know what your password is. Even if you trust that person. **DONT TELL ANYONE!!**

Always Be Mindful Online

You should always be mindful before you do something online. Always think about others or how they feel because it can get super bad online. Also think of what you post because people can post harsh things.

BE SMARTER

Kaiya G

Why should phones not be in school

Phones should not be in school because it is not recommended to help with learning and stop cyberbullying.

Prioritize Your Time Wisely

Always pay attention on what time you use your technology. Prioritizing your time is very important for yourself because your brain can get the blue light from your screen and it will be harder for you to focus and sleep during the day.

Be Respectful

Always think of other online. Being respectful is very important online because that is where a lot of people get super crazy. Always think of others before you do something online. Being respectful can show that you are very mindful of others. Just don't be weird online.

Control

Never hesitate to block or report someone. Always try to take control. If you feel uncomfortable with this person the best way to avoid it is to block that person. Don't feel bad always think that blocking her/him is the best way.

What is fake?

Fake is different in different situations though fake can be catfishing in a few things like clickbait, catfishing and spoofing. Most of the time where people normally get hacked is from emails.

Students at Drinkwater Elementary developed their BE SMARTER posters

The following rules were determined by the students to be important for everyone to know:

- B**ased on school rules use your phone only at appropriate times.
- E**ducate yourself on what fake images, fake news, scams, trolls, and bots look like.
- S**trong and private passwords are essential.
- M**ind the consequences of what you do, say, and post.
- A**lways be as kind and positive as you can.
- R**espect the privacy of others.
- T**ake control and block or report inappropriate behaviours.
- E**veryone should keep their private information and photos to themselves.
- R**emember to prioritize your time wisely.

BE SMARTER!

Positive change is happening! Correspondence, along with a copy of the students' video, has been sent to the Minister of Education and Child Care. The district has committed to an update of the Administration Procedures around cell phone use in the summer of 2024, considering and incorporating the ideas presented from Drinkwater students.

Drinkwater has taken a step towards solving a big problem that impacts all students in the province with the hope that, in the future, we can all Be Smarter!

"We feel this code that we have co-constructed is essential for the safety and well-being of students across the district. This code is important because it helps students understand how to be safe online, how to avoid scams, and how to protect themselves.

~ Grade 7 Student



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Contact sandra@bcpvpa.bc.ca

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Your Stories: Anti-Racism

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Send your stories, along with your high resolution photos, to:

sandra@bcpvpa.bc.ca



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