

APRIL/MAY
NEWSLETTER

BEWARE OF CELL PHONE APPS

PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS: WE WANT YOU TO BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING APPS THAT KIDS MAY BE DOWNLOADING. We want you to be aware of the following apps and the cons that go along with them. The following apps might be a simple way for your child to keep in contact with his/her friends; however, even innocent use of most of these apps can land a child in a situation he/she never intended to be in. Here are some potentially dangerous apps that are popular among young people.

1. Tinder: An app that is used for hooking-up and dating. Users can rate profiles and find potential hook-ups via GPS location tracking. 450 million profiles are rated every day! The good news is, this app pulls information from user's Facebook profiles, so it is more authenticated than other apps.

Problem: It is easy for adults and minors to find one another. Also, due to the rating system, it is often used for cyber-bullying, because a group of kids can target another kid and purposefully make his/her rating go down.

2. Snapchat: This app allows a user to send photos and videos to anyone on his/her friend list. The sender can determine how long the receiver can view the image and then the image "deconstructs" after the allotted time.

Problem: It is the #1 app used for sexting, mostly because people think it is the safer way to sext. However, the "snaps" can easily be recovered and the receiver can take a screen shot and share it with others. Also, a lot of images from Snapchat get posted to revenge porn sites, called "snap porn."

3. Blendr: A flirting app used to meet new people through GPS location services. You can send messages, photos, videos, rate the hotness of other users, etc.

Problem: There are no authentication requirements, so sexual predators can contact minors, minors can meet up with adults. And again, the sexting.

4. Kik Messenger: An instant messaging app with over 100 million users that allows users to exchange videos, pics and sketches. Users can also send YouTube videos and create memes and digital gifs.

Problem: Kids using the app for sexting and sending nude selfies through the app is common. The term "sext buddy" is being replaced with "Kik buddy." Kids use Reddit and other forum sites to place classified ads for sex by giving out their Kik usernames. Also, Kik does not offer any parental controls and there is no way of authenticating users, thus making it easy for sexual predators to use the app to interact with minors.

5. Whisper: Whisper is an anonymous confession app. It allows users to superimpose text over a picture in order to share their thoughts and feelings anonymously. However, you post anonymously, but it displays the area you are posting from. You can also search for users posting within a mile from you.

Problem: Due to the anonymity, kids are posting pics of other kids with derogatory text superimposed on the image. Also, users do not have to register to use Whisper and can use the app to communicate with other users nearby through GPS. A quick look at the app and you can see that online relationships are forming through the use of this app, but you never know the person behind the computer or phone. Sexual predators also use the app to locate kids and establish a relationship. One man in Seattle, Wash., was charged with raping a 12-year-old girl he met on this app in 2013.

6. Ask.fm: [Ask.fm](http://ask.fm) is one of the most popular social networking sites that is almost exclusively used by kids. It is a Q&A site that allows users to ask other users questions while remaining anonymous.

Problem: Kids will often ask repeated derogatory questions that target one person. Due to the anonymity of the badgering, it creates a virtually consequence-free form of cyber-bullying. [Ask.fm](http://ask.fm) has been associated with nine documented cases of suicide in the U.S. and the U.K.

BEWARE OF CELL PHONE APPS CONTINUED

7. Yik Yak: An app that allows users to post text-only “Yaks” of up to 200 characters. The messages can be viewed by the 500 Yackers who are closest to the person who wrote the Yak, as determined by GPS tracking.

Problem: Users are exposed to and are contributing sexually explicit content, derogatory language and personal attacks. Although the posts are anonymous, kids start revealing personal information as they get more comfortable with other users.

8. Poof: This app allows users to make other apps “disappear” on their phone. Kids can hide any app they don’t want you to see by opening the app and selecting other apps.

Problem: It’s obvious, right? Luckily, you can no longer purchase this app. But, if it was downloaded before it became unavailable, your child may still have it. Keep in mind that these types of apps are created and then terminated quickly, but similar ones are continuously being created. Others to look for: Hidden Apps, App Lock and Hide It Pro.

9. Omegle: This app is primarily used for video chatting. When you use Omegle, you do not identify yourself through the service. Instead, chat participants are only identified as “You” and “Stranger.” However, you can connect Omegle to your Facebook account to find chat partners with similar interests. When choosing this feature, an Omegle Facebook App will receive your Facebook “likes” and try to match you with a stranger with similar likes.

Problem: Sexual predators use this app to find kids to collect personal information from in order to track them down more easily in person.

10. Down: This app, which used to be called Bang With Friends, is connected to Facebook. Users can categorize their Facebook friends in one of two ways: They can indicate whether or not a friend is someone they’d like to hang with or someone they are “down” to hook-up with.

Problem: Although identifying someone you are willing to hook-up with doesn’t mean you will actually hook-up with them, it creates a hook-up norm within a peer group. Depending on your sexual values, this might be something you don’t want for your child. Also, because of the classification system, a lot of kids will feel left out or unwanted, which can lead to anxiety, etc.

April & May 2016 Newsletter

Counselor's Corner by *Miss Tetschner*

HAPPY SPRING!!! The calendar says it is spring. Anxious students are a hint of spring, and the weather has decided to be spring-like. However, there is still much to be done before the end of the school year.

Spring also means scheduling. Mr. Owen and myself have been working diligently on next year's schedule and hope to have it complete by the middle part of April. As scheduling is always a challenge, Mr. Owen and myself make the best effort possible to offer several academic options for all our students based on the information the students provided at pre-registration. As colleges are becoming more selective, and entrance requirements are increasing, students need to be academically solid in their choice of classes as well as their academic performance.

I will start meeting with students to plan for their 2016-2017 school year. After meeting with each student and discussing their schedule, the student will bring the schedule home for parents to also consider. Please discuss your student's schedule and call or make an appointment if you have questions or concerns.

8th GRADE COLLEGE VISIT: The 8th grade students will on a College Visit Day on April 14th. The students will visit Wayne State College a 4-year college and Northeast Community College a 2-year college. The students will have the opportunity to tour both campuses, eat at Wayne's cafeteria, and visit with current students.

11th GRADE COLLEGE VISIT: Through the UNL Opportunity Grant the 11th grade will visit the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a 4-year public college, and Southeast Community College – Lincoln campus, a 2-year public college on April 11th.

Through these college visit experiences students get a feel for the different types of colleges, the programs they offer, admission requirements, and the different opportunities each college has to offer.

EMAIL: I started an email list of seniors, senior parents, and juniors, and junior parents to provide up-to-date as it comes through my office. I have had positive responses to this resource and found that students check their email better than they listen to the daily announcements. Many times students and parents would email me questions, essays to proof read, etc... this instant way of communicating has been a wonderful tool. If you would like to be included on this email list for the 2015-2016 school year please email me your address at julie.tetschner@burwellpublicschools.com

JUNIORS: Now is the time to start attending college "Junior Days." These are college visits especially for high school juniors. If you have a college of interest, I highly recommend going to visit, researching their admission and scholarship requirements, and in some cases apply. It is easy to explore colleges on line and gather information – Just do it!! Also take advantage of days we don't have school to schedule a college visit. Don't wait until your senior year to start the pursuit of a college career. It is important that you take time to look at your options because if you wait your options might not be available (especially at a two year school).

Juniors interested in programs that require a waiting list should apply NOW and get your name on the list. Many programs at Milford and Northeast, for example, have at least a year wait for some popular programs. It is important that you get your name on the list if you are interested in attending. Also don't feel obligated to go there if your name is on the list. It is just to help secure a spot and remember you can always change your mind. To find out if there is waiting lists simply call and ask.

Take the ACT in April and/or June. Students are advised to complete the ACT Academy. It is to your advantage to take the ACT test this spring, so you know where you are at and plan for where you want to be by December your senior year. Register at www.actstudent.org and enter BHS school code 280-375. Also if you qualify for free/reduced lunch or other programs you may take the ACT test for free and just stop by my office for that information.

Students only interested in attending a two year college should plan on taking the COMPASS test this spring as well. This test can be taken at the Central Community site in Ord and several juniors may take advantage of this opportunity already this spring. The COMPASS is used by two year colleges for academic placement in to classes, as well as scholarship dollars, and admission to certain programs of study.

Junior To Do List:

Plan to take the ACT test or COMPASS test

April 9th – ACT Test

April ?? – COMPASS test (sign up on Miss T's window)

May 6th – deadline to register for the June 11th ACT Test

Start looking at colleges and go on college visits

Start looking for a summer job or volunteer work

Are you on Miss T's email list? If not email her so you can get the latest and up-to-date information julie.tetschner@burwellpublicschools.com.

NOTE: 2016 | 2017 ACT TEST DATE September 10, 2016, October 22, 2016, December 10, 2016, February 11, 2017, April 8, 2017 June 10, 2017

SENIORS: Finish the year with purpose.

Keep on top of scholarship deadlines, deadlines for housing, deposits, etc....

Submit your FAFSA. Colleges have financial aid deadlines – look online or call.

Continue applying for scholarships and notify me of scholarship awarded.

Notify me of colleges you are planning to attend.

Scholarships are hot, hot, hot!!! This is the time of year when most scholarships are posted and deadlines are due. This is also the time of year that many local scholarships are posted. Check your email daily as I have been emailing you scholarship information as soon as it comes across my desk. However, not all scholarships come across my desk, so sign up with www.ScholarshipQuest.org and check with organizations or businesses that either you or your parents are associated with. There are several scholarships out there but you must apply. The people that receive scholarships are the ones that do the work (many are online), write the essay, get letters of recommendation, and put a little time and effort in to completing the needed information. You can't be awarded anything if you don't try.

It is also FAFSA time!!! Remember the FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID is FREE. Never pay to have your FAFSA completed. Steps to take to complete your FAFSA: 1. Apply for a FSA ID for you and a parent to file the FAFSA on-line www.fsaaid.ed.gov (this is your electronic signature). 2. Complete student and parent 2015 tax returns. 3. Gather all needed information to complete the FAFSA. I emailed you a check list, but you can also go to EducationQuest.org and look under the FAFSA tools for the list and tutorials. 4. Complete the FAFSA <https://fafsa.gov/>.

If you need any assistance with completing the FAFSA or have questions, please contact the EducationQuest Foundation. This is a free education service and they are well informed and trained on the FAFSA. You can call the Kearney office at 1-800-666-3721 or go to their website at www.EducationQuest.org.

By completing the FAFSA (remember to do it as soon as possible as some funding runs out and is on a first come first serve basis) and the financial aid process you will be notified of scholarships, grants, work-study, and loans. This will all help you in the decisions you will need to make on how to pay for a college education. After you complete the FAFSA you will soon receive a SAR (Student Aid Report); please bring me a copy so I can record any scholarship and grant money you may be awarded for my records.

Seniors, when you are awarded scholarships please bring me a copy of your award letter so I can keep a record as well as start planning and preparing for your graduation ceremony.

It has been a pleasure working with the seniors. I am very pleased with your accomplishments and wish you the very best in your future. Please keep in mind that if you need anything in the future let me know.

Senior To Do List:

Narrow your college choices.

Notify me of the college you are planning to attend and any scholarships you have been awarded

Continue to apply for scholarships

Complete the FAFSA

Start looking for a summer job

May 8th – Graduation

2016 STATE SPEECH

Wonderful job speech team at the state speech meet.

Breanna Dawe 1st, state champion in Informative. She is the first ever state champion from Burwell. Non medalist places were: Cayden Owens 7th in extemp, Samantha O'Neal 8th in entertainment, and Jessica Michalski 15th in serious. Great numbers consider the 100's of kids that do these events in a season. These kids placed 10th as a team and all speakers had superior performances.

During the 2016 season the team won over 100 medals at 10 meets, had over 241 entries that spoke in over 684 rounds with 6,840 minutes of speaking, and put in over 7,200 hours of practice prior to meets. With the end result of four champion team titles at meets.

CLASS OF 2016 GRADUATION INFORMATION

Class Motto: "Someday We May Find What We Are Looking For, Or Maybe We Won't. Maybe We Will Find Something Much Greater Than That."

Class Colors: Lavender, Black, Silver

Class Flower: Stargazer Lily

Class Song: "Don't Say Goodbye"

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, April 2 Prom

*Pictures—5:45-6:45

* Grand March—7PM

Wednesday, April 13—10:00 Start

Tuesday, April 26—FFA Banquet

Tuesday, May 3—Spring Athletic/Senior Awards Night

Thursday, May 5—Fine Arts Awards Night

Friday, May 6—Seniors will be with us all day

Sunday, May 8—Graduation 2:30

Tuesday, May 10—JH Awards 2:30

Thursday, May 19— Last day of school for grades 7-11

*1:00 Dismissal with student checkout in the following order:

Juniors—1:00

Sophomore's—1:30

Freshman—2:00

8th grade— 2:30

7th grade —3:00