

LAKEWOOD PARK CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

SAFETY NEWSLETTER

Parent Partnership Initiative

OCTOBER

2026

Seeing Growth

From August through September, it is always amazing to see how much students learn and grow in such a short amount of time! Their minds are ripe and ready for learning, and we can noticeably see new habits forming and being practiced daily (I have lots of little friends showing me their wiggly teeth everyday as part of their routine!).

Habits, both healthy and unhealthy, have a way of forming quickly, and often without us even noticing them. In this newsletter, Mrs. Cassandra Johnson offers wisdom as a parent and staff member on personal devices and how to protect our children from developing unhealthy digital safety habits.

E. Carpenter BSN, RN, LPCS Safety Coordinator



October's Theme: Child Safety with Personal Electronic Devices

For the month of October, we are reflecting on student personal device safety, where we encourage monitoring activities on student personal devices and promote communication between parents and students on device usage.



Child Safety with Personal Electronic Devices

Protecting Young Hearts and Minds in a Digital World

Cassandra Johnson, Elementary Administrative Assistant

Technology lands in our kids' hands long before their brains are ready for it, and the digital world throws more pressure, information, and temptation at them than any generation before them. Popular apps like Snapchat, TikTok, Roblox, and Fortnite are designed with features that make supervision challenging, even for very attentive parents. Snapchat's disappearing messages, TikTok's endless algorithm-driven content, Roblox's open chat and user-generated worlds, and Fortnite's live voice chat all create environments where kids can encounter inappropriate content, unsafe interactions, or pressure they're not developmentally ready to handle.

These platforms weren't built with the care of children's brains in mind or the purpose of guarding their hearts, and that's exactly why intentional oversight matters. Neuroscience is clear: the parts of the brain responsible for judgment, self-control, and impulse regulation are still developing well into the mid-twenties. That means children simply cannot manage unlimited access on their own.

Social media, games, and apps expose them to comparison, bullying, inappropriate images, and content that shapes how they see themselves and others. **Scripture has already told us what science now confirms: "Above all else, guard your heart" (Proverbs 4:23). Guarding our children's hearts in a digital age requires intentional, active stewardship.**

One of the most important ways we can protect our kids is by staying involved in their digital world and modeling healthy habits with our own devices. Many of us didn't grow up with smartphones, constant notifications, or social media, so we're learning right alongside our kids. Our device habits shape theirs. **When we set phones aside during family time, keep screens out of bedrooms overnight, and show what balanced use looks like, we're teaching them that technology is a tool, not a master.**

At the same time, staying educated matters. Apps today include hidden folders, disappearing messages, and "vault" features designed to conceal content. Many apps and games are on platforms that allow our kids to communicate with other people, or for people to reach out to them. **Faith-based resources like Focus on the Family, Plugged In, and Axis Parent Guides can help parents understand what kids are using and how to set wise boundaries.** *Cont.*



Cassandra Johnson
Elementary Admin
Assistant

As kids grow, parents naturally wrestle with independence, trust, and accountability. Trust is important, but trust without oversight isn't biblical or developmentally appropriate. Accountability is discipleship. It teaches responsibility, honesty, and wisdom. And be encouraged: this isn't something only moms need to worry about. Dads and other male role models play a huge role here, too. Moms often feel like they're carrying the mental load of monitoring apps, screen time, and online safety, but when both parents stay involved, it lightens the burden and creates a stronger, more consistent approach at home.

However your family is structured, unity in this area strengthens your home and gives your kids a clearer, steadier foundation.

I often have to remind myself that the goal isn't perfection, it's faithful stewardship. When we come across something concerning on our child's device, we need to respond with calm, prayerful clarity. Use the moment to teach, guide, and restore. Technology can be a powerful tool for learning, creativity, and connection, but only when parents stay engaged, informed, and united. Let's steward this responsibility with grace, truth, and unwavering love, together.

Parent Partnership

Promoting Safe Electronic Device Usage

There is great responsibility that comes with offering personal electronic devices to our young ones. Personal responsibility for children themselves, as well as a responsibility to protect our children as adults. But this path is not one that we have to travel alone!

Take a peek at the following resources that can help you stay informed and keep an eye on your children in the digital realm (click titles to access links).

The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt - It can read like a textbook, but this book a wealth of knowledge focusing on the impact technology has on young minds. Highly recommended by many staff members at LPCS.

Qustodio (scroll down on webpage) - Free resource through LP. Offers important insights into your child's online activity on their school device, as well as help to review and manage activities on other devices in your home (option to install on student personal mobile devices).

Wait Until 8th - Campaign to delay personal device usage until at least the 8th grade.

Protect Young Eyes - Encourages intentionality and responsibility when integrating technology into daily life for children being raised in a digital age.

Officer Gomez - An SRO with a passion for technological safety, provides guidance to parents regarding current online trends and offers anecdotes on realities within the digital landscape.