FINLEY IS COLLEGE READY!

Welcome to our winter newsletter. Since our last publication, we have had many exciting events that have taken place. One particular event, College Awareness Week, was held from October 26th through October 30th. School counselors, Sarah Burgos and Denise Caiazzo, exposed students to various colleges and universities. The week included daily college spotlights over Finley’s public address system and online college quizzes taken during homeroom. Students also participated in a college photo booth and created college banners. Here at Finley Middle School, it is never too early for students to start thinking about their future!
INTERNET SAFETY

Technology through the use of the internet is a way of life for today’s children, including tweens and teens. With that said, it is important that students stay safe. Identified below are some helpful tips.

Internet Safety Tips for Tweens and Teens

· Spend time having fun with your parents online and helping them understand technology!

· Never post your personal information, such as a cell phone number, home number, home address, or your location on any social networking sites or mobile applications like Snapchat or Instagram.

· Never meet in person with anyone you first “met” on the internet. If someone asks to meet you, tell your parents or guardian right away. Some people may not be who they say they are.

· Check with your parents before you post pictures of yourself or others online. Do not post inappropriate pictures of yourself or anyone!

· Never respond to mean or rude texts, messages, and/or e-mails. Delete any unwanted messages. You may need to delete friends who continuously bother you or post things that are not appropriate.

· NEVER share your password with anyone, including your best friend. The only people who should know your password are your parents or guardian(s).

· If you wouldn’t say something to another person’s face, don’t text it or post it online.

· Do not download or install software or anything on your computer or cell phone without checking first with your parents or guardian(s).

· Use the privacy settings in social networking sites.

· If anything makes you feel uncomfortable online, while gaming or when using your cell phone, talk with your parents or guardian(s) right away.

Source: Netwsmartz.org and safekids.com.

Internet Safety Tips for Parents

· Monitor your child’s website history and consider keeping the family computer in a common area, so you can keep an eye on internet activity.

· Check your child’s passwords; make sure they are strong.

· Become a net-savvy parent. The best safeguard against online dangers is being informed!

· “Chat” with your children. Develop an open dialogue so that you can talk with your kids about the benefits and dangers of the internet.

· Agree on a game plan. Formally agree on your family’s rules and guidelines for using the internet and mobile devices.

Source: InternetSafety.com

HOW TO STAY MOTIVATED IN SCHOOL

According to: Scholastic.com

How do we motivate our middle school students and keep them engaged in learning?

· Students are motivated by the feeling of having choices, of belonging, and of success.

· As students strive to be viewed as “mature,” they welcome the opportunity to make their own choices. Running a dictatorship will get you nowhere fast. They need to know their voice is heard.

· Celebrate their achievements and give them choice and voice.

· All people, regardless of their age, appreciate praise and acknowledgement for their efforts.

· Positive reinforcement goes a long way because the more successful students feel, the more effort they will put into succeeding!

Source: Netwsmartz.org and safekids.com.