



Update from the Superintendent

To: All BDS Employees
From: Mark McQueen, Superintendent
Date: October 27, 2023

This is a copy of the Superintendent's weekly message that is sent to parents/guardians. We want to make sure you have the same information as well, so you're in the loop :)

I am excited to share some important information about an upcoming event that is dedicated to the safety and well-being of our students. On Tuesday, November 7th, we will be hosting another "Parents Against Predators" event at Rutherford High School, and I encourage all parents/guardians, secondary school students and community members to attend.

I take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to Panama City Beach Police Chief J.R. Talamantez for his continued commitment to leading the way in educating all of us about online safety. Chief Talamantez is a valuable member of the BDS Team of Teams and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge on this critical topic.

In addition, I want to extend our appreciation to the Central Panhandle Association of Realtors and Buffalo Rock Pepsi for their generous support and sponsorship of the free pasta dinner before the event. Their shared commitment to our community's safety and well-being is not only commendable, but their partnership in this endeavor is invaluable.

The "Parents Against Predators" event is part of our ongoing commitment to providing parents and guardians with vital information about the dangers that lurk online. In today's digital age, it is essential that we equip ourselves with the knowledge and tools to protect our children while they navigate the internet.

During this event, there will be concurrent sessions specifically designed for students in grades 6-12. These sessions will focus on teaching our students how to stay safe online, recognize potential risks, and make responsible choices while using the internet. While those sessions are going on, the amazing team at the PCBPD will provide onsite childcare and activities for students in grades K-5.

At Bay District Schools, safety is one of our highest priorities, and events like "Parents Against Predators" exemplify our ongoing commitment to providing a safe and supportive environment in which our students can learn and grow. We believe that education extends beyond the classroom, and empowering our community with knowledge about online safety is another step in the right direction.

Please mark your calendars for November 7th and join us at Rutherford High School for this important event which begins at 5:30 p.m. with a free dinner for those interested. The sessions with Chief Talamantez begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. and should conclude before 8 p.m.

Together, we can ensure that our students have the tools and awareness they need to stay safe in the digital world, and I'm grateful to all of the members of our Team of Teams who are working so hard to bring events like this one to our community.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you there.