

DIGI-BYTE

Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary)

Digital Literacy Newsletter

An initiative by the Peer Support Board



In a blink of an eye, we are in the last stretch of the school year for 2022! Term 3 was indeed an eventful time for our school, as we celebrated our Founder's Day as well as National Day. Now that Term 4 has come around, it is time for revision and preparation for examinations.

The past issues of the Digi-Byte Newsletter have featured topics such as social media, cyberbullying, use of smartphones, digital footprint, identifying false content, scams, online harassment and digital burnout. I hope the resources and information have been helpful in our quest to be prepared to guide youths in their use of their digital devices!

WhatsApp, originally released in 2009, has become the most popular messaging app worldwide. For many of us, we find it difficult to remember what

The Peer Support Board student leaders speaking about Digital Literacy at morning assembly.



communication was like before the advent of text messaging platforms like WhatsApp. Yet, we have also heard of cases of WhatsApp hijacking. What can we do to safeguard our use of text messaging platforms? Furthermore, as students engage in research as part of their learning, how do we educate them about plagiarism? As students can access virtually any website in a matter of seconds, how do we educate them about inappropriate content?

Senior Minister of State for Communications and Information at the Government Technology Agency's developer conference in 2018

Senior Minister of State for Communications and Information, Dr Janil Puthuchear, said at the TOUCH Cyber Wellness Symposium in 2021, "It takes all of us in the community – schools, parents, youths, and community organisations like TOUCH – to ensure that our children can go online safely, securely, and learn how to protect themselves against online threats."

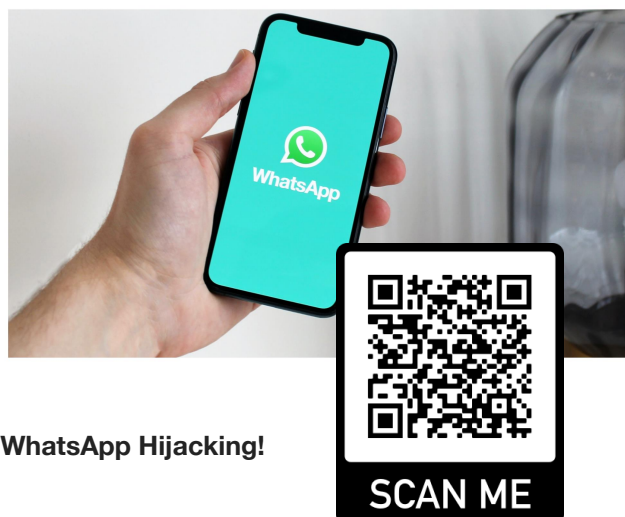
Let's dive into the helpful guides and information in this issue!

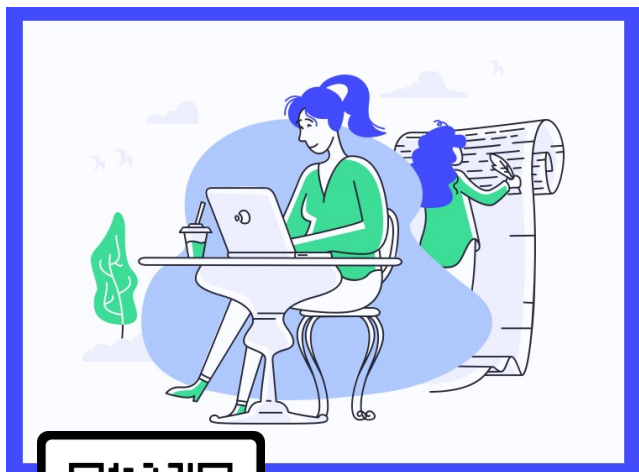
Knowledge

Text messaging platforms like WhatsApp allow us to send text messages instantly, form chat groups, make video calls and more. It is almost impossible to avoid using such text messaging platforms, so how can we be careful and avoid WhatsApp hijacking?

The Singapore Computer Emergency Response Team (SingCERT) answers this question with very helpful information.

Scan the QR code to access SingCERT's page on WhatsApp Hijacking!



**SCAN ME**

Netiquette

As students increasingly engage in online research for information for assignments and projects, they are faced with a seemingly endless stream of information to make sense of.

It is therefore important that students understand why plagiarism is a serious issue, and appreciate the value of their own hard work.

Edutopia, by The George Lucas Educational Foundation, provides an insightful article on plagiarism.

Scan the QR code to access Edutopia's page on plagiarism!

Self-Management

The increase in time spent online has also raised the risk of youths viewing inappropriate content, which can be damaging to their health and wellbeing. How can adults engage youths in understanding the dangers of viewing inappropriate content, and guide them in their use of the Internet?

IMDA provides useful information and tips on guiding youths in the content that they access on the Internet.

Scan the QR code to access IMDA's page on addressing inappropriate content!

**SCAN ME**

With the world pretty much at our fingertips, we enjoy the benefits of instant communication and access to information. As observed, these also present real concerns and dangers which we must be prepared for and safeguard against. With the appropriate measures to safeguard our use of text messaging platforms and the Internet, we can continue to take advantage of the benefits as intended. As the school year draws to a close and the students begin their end-of-year school holidays, may you and your family enjoy many screen-free, family-bonding activities!

Final Word

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