

## **To Be Read At Open School Night In All Grade 3 Classrooms**

### A Message From Marc Epstein, District Technology Director

The Great Neck Public Schools place a high priority on educating our students about technology. In Grade 3, Internet safety lessons include information about filtering systems, various forms of online communication such as e-mail, instant messaging, chat rooms, and posted messages, and proper etiquette when communicating with others online.

Inappropriate Internet use rarely, if ever, occurs in school because Internet access is filtered and students are supervised when they go online. However, as children get older, we have noted a growing number of incidents that occur outside of school involving inappropriate online student behavior. Parent awareness, involvement, and supervision of Internet use in the home will go a long way towards preventing these types of incidents. Here's what you can do to help:

1. Establish rules and limit the amount of time your child uses the Internet in your home.
2. Supervise your child and his or her friends when they go online.
3. Do not allow your child to go to Web sites that you haven't visited first.
4. Place all Internet-enabled computers in a family room and never in your child's bedroom.
5. Create screen names and online accounts for your child that do not include any personally identifying information.
6. Make sure your child knows not to share personal information with others while online.
7. Make sure your child understands that passwords are private and not to be shared.
8. Remind your child to behave online as you would always expect him or her to behave in person.
9. Make sure your child knows to come to you if anything online makes him or her feel uncomfortable.

If you have any questions, feel free to stop by and see our school's computer teacher or visit the Great Neck Web site for more information.