

## **To Be Read At Open School Night In All Grade 4 Classrooms**

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

The Great Neck Public Schools place a high priority on educating our students about technology and Internet Safety. In Grade 4, students learn about the benefits and dangers of online communication, the nature and hurtfulness of Cyberbullying, the importance of respecting others, and the legal issues involving copyright, intellectual property, file sharing, and plagiarism.

Inappropriate Internet use rarely, if ever, occurs in school because Internet access is filtered and students are supervised when they go online. However, when 4<sup>th</sup> graders go online at home, sometimes they communicate things inappropriately through Instant Messaging that they would not otherwise do in person. Children tend to believe that they are anonymous when online and don't understand that inappropriate online behavior can have real-life consequences. Parents are sometimes unaware of what their children are doing on the Internet and that is when problems can occur. 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. Consider activating or purchasing filtering software and monitor the sites your child visits.
6. Create screen names and online accounts for your child that do not include any personally identifying information.
7. Make sure your child knows not to share personal information with others while online.
8. Make sure your child understands that passwords are private and not to be shared.
9. Remind your child to behave online as you would always expect him or her to behave in person.
10. Remind your child that people are not always who they seem to be online and 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.