

WALLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"There is Power in Pride"

www.wboe.org

Mr. James J. Albro
Superintendent of Schools
albro@wboe.org

JEFFERSON SCHOOL
32 Pine Street
Wallington, NJ 07057
(973) 777-4421

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

I am sure that you have been hearing or reading about clown sightings and public threats being made through social media involving people in clown costumes etc. Most recently it has been reported that people around our state are being detained or prosecuted by the authorities for transmitting offensive and threatening messages via the internet in and around NJ. Surely you may have some questions about all of this and I imagine your children may be curious about it too.

Please be aware that there are a number of websites on the internet that in a variety of ways facilitate the transmission of these messages to the general public, and these websites are accessible to almost anyone. Unfortunately we are now hearing from our students that they are aware of these websites and that some may have even visited them in the last few days. Of course it is normal for children to be curious about what they see and hear and it is also normal for them to seek out more information, however; the reality is that there is no way for their schools or their parents to censor the content of these kinds of websites.

The purpose of this communication is simply to make you aware of this information, and to enlist your support as we work together to ensure the safety of your children. Please continue to monitor your children's internet activity, and speak to them about your expectations. It would be helpful for you to remind them that they should speak to an adult if they see or hear anything that is offensive or threatening in any way, and that under no circumstances should they transmit this information to others via email, facebook, snapchat, or any other social networking applications. As always, our district will work very closely with our local police department to ensure that we are communicating all necessary information to keep our students and our staff safe. We are obliged to report these types of incidences to our local police department, and in some cases the Department of Homeland Security as well.

If you have any questions or concerns that you think we need to be aware of, please contact your school's office, the Central Administration office, or the Wallington Police Department.

Yours Truly,

James J. Albro
Superintendent of Schools