

Dear Parents,

Our Spring Break is quickly coming to an end. I hope that all of our Bulldogs were able to rest, relax and enjoy time with family and friends. As a reminder, our teachers have professional development on Monday, March 13th. Our students will return to campus on Tuesday, March 14th. It is also important for students and parents to know that due to the school closure we had on Friday, March 3rd, we have extended the end of the grading period for the 3rd Nine Weeks to Wednesday, March 15th. Teachers will be available for tutoring on Tuesday, March 14th after school.

Every spring I typically send an email to parents sharing information about how to support your child through the busy schedule of the spring, how to deal with stress and anxiety, or the impact of too much screen time. While all of those are still issues that we should always stay aware of and work together to provide support to our students, today's email has two additional topics that are currently of high concern for cities along the 75 corridor. The dangers of Fentanyl and the reality of Human Trafficking are both concerns that every parent will want to address with their child.

We have all seen the news about the increase of accidental overdose and death in teens in the DFW area due to drugs laced with Fentanyl. MISD has already sent out a link to communication regarding the dangers of Fentanyl but I have attached that same link here for you. [Dangers of Fentanyl](#)

You can also find out more about the dangers of Fentanyl and other drugs by connecting with Drug Free McKinney. Here is a link to their information [Drug Free McKinney](#)

Additionally, I would ask that if your child shares information about any concerns regarding drugs on campus to please contact us directly. Our students are always very quick to report any threats of violence and for that we are very thankful, but we also encourage you to talk to your child about reporting other issues of concern. Too many times teens do not see the dangers of drug or alcohol use by their peers and they fail to report it. Students can report concerns directly to a teacher, principal, SRO or use Tip411.

Another issue of concern in today's world is the increase of exploitation of minors through human trafficking. The City of McKinney and the North Texas area is a safe place with great schools, shopping, restaurants and other activities. However, that does omit us from being wise about concerns. Below are a few tips that we as parents all think about, but sometimes forget how impactful these actions can be for the teens in our life:

- Know what your kids are doing online. Often, apps and games that seem innocent have chat features that can be misused by adults looking to make contact with children.
- Know who your kids are with and where they are hanging out. There are obvious situations, like being on the street late at night, but traffickers can target kids in public places, like the mall, a park or concerts.

- Teach your children skills for resiliency. It seems simple, but taking steps to help your child develop and maintain good self-esteem and understand healthy relationships highly reduces the risk that they will be targeted by traffickers.
- Maintain open communication with your child. Be someone the teens in your life can talk with about their concerns.

How you talk with your child about these two issues is personal and all parents will find the right way to approach it. The most important thing is to just do it. Start a conversation and don't be frustrated when your child doesn't immediately want to talk. These are hard conversations and the most common response from our kids is usually "I know, I will be careful". Don't let that be the end of the conversation. Keep it going by reminding them you just want to talk with them and make sure they understand how important their safety and the safety of their friends is to you. The moment they are walking out the door to go hang out with friends is usually not the best time to start these conversations. Consider purposely taking the long way home, turn the tv off after dinner, or just have them hang out in the family room instead of going right to their bedroom when they get home from school. Again, may sound simple, but as a Mom myself I know that getting your child to open up about the tough stuff is not always easy. I also know that once you do it, you won't regret it, and neither will your kids.

I hope you all enjoy the weekend and we look forward to having all of our Bulldogs back on campus on Tuesday, March 14.

Sincerely,

Jae Gaskill
Principal