September Technology Newsletter

Greetings! We are thrilled to welcome you to a new school year filled with exciting opportunities, adventures, and celebrations.

All JJIS students have been able to log into their google accounts and join our Information Literacy classrooms. We encourage you to take a look by visiting classroom.google.com. In an effort to protect and encourage students to have safer passwords, new passwords have been assigned to all students. You will find labels with usernames and passwords for third and fourth grade students on the inside cover of their agendas.

Our first few weeks have focused on getting to know our students and helping them get to know us. All students will be utilizing a "**badging sheet**" specific to their grade level. Students will earn badges throughout the year to demonstrate mastery of a specific area. The badging sheets promote growth in a variety of similar areas, such as Internet Safety, and will provide students with continuous feedback on their progress in our classes. In addition to their badging sheets, fourth and fifth grade students have begun to chart their progress in the form of a "Goal Setting" spreadsheet. This spreadsheet allows students to chart their weekly progress, with an opportunity to see their progression over time in the form of a graph. Students will later reflect on their own progress with opportunities to set specific learning goals.

In the weeks to come students will begin to learn more about Internet Safety. Third graders will listen to a presentation before developing their own Internet Safety rules poster to take home to share. Fourth graders will embark on a quest to "Be Internet Awesome." Check out Interland and it's four safety kingdoms by visiting https://beinternetawesome.withgoogle.com/en/interland. Fifth graders will test their netsmartz, take quizzes, and develop knowledge in a variety of safety areas.

Problem-Solving Playdates

We are pleased to announce that each class will participate in at least two problem-solving playdates in the Library Media Center each month. These playdates will focus on problem-solving challenges, use of cooperation to support learning, and provide students with strategies to support persistence and perseverance in a variety of curricular contexts.

Challenge 1: Create a website - this month all students worked to create a platform or digital portfolio that they will later use to share challenges, document learning, and

reflect on the process. Students were able to name their site, add and share pages, and add details to customize their homepage.

The Cardboard Challenge
The Cardboard Challenge will begin next week starting on **Monday, September 23rd** and continue into the month of October. Students are asked to bring in duct tape and a piece of cardboard that can easily be held and/or taken home on the bus. To see the inspiration for this amazing and creative day please visit http://cainesarcade.com/.

Calling All Headphones!
Students are encouraged to bring their own headphones or earbuds for Information Literacy classes. Personal headphones enable students to hear text more clearly, have a better fit, and are more hygienic.

Typing
In an effort to improve and strengthen their keyboarding skills, we encourage students to use typing.com. With your permission, students can click "Student Login" at the top right and then "Sign in with Google." It is recommended that grade 3 students complete the Beginner lessons, grade 4 students complete the Intermediate lessons, and grade 5 students complete the Advanced lessons.

What is Google Classroom?
Google Classroom (classroom.google.com) is a free web service for students and teachers. In Colchester all students are given a google account with access to other learners and teachers in the Colchester schools. Students can join classrooms, access information, and create a variety of documents, presentations, and use other tools to showcase their learning.

If you would like to join your child(ren)'s google classroom, feel free to email one of the Information Literacy teachers, and we will send you an invitation.

How can I connect to JJIS to find additional information?
- Check out our **website**: *jackjackterlibrary.com* for resources, access to our library catalog, and more!
- **Email us**: bajohnson@colchesterct.org or khebb@colchesterct.org
- Follow us on **twitter**: @technojohnson and @k_hebb to see what we're doing in our classes!
- Subscribe to our **youtube channel** by visiting youtube.com/jjislmc to view learning events, Town Meetings, and other special activities taking place at JJIS.