



# The Palliser School Division

## Palliser Centre

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Dear Palliser Parents,

We have recently received an important message from the ICE (Internet Child Exploitation) unit of ALERT (Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams). We have shared with you the communication directly from ALERT, but we felt it was important to share some more information about this difficult topic. We know this is a difficult conversation to have with your children, but ultimately, their safety and wellbeing is our top priority. Here are some tips and suggestions for the conversation and for ensuring your child is safe online:

- Be selective about what you share online, especially your personal information and passwords. If your social media accounts are open to everyone, a predator may be able to figure out a lot of information about you or your children.

- Make sure children's apps and social networking sites' privacy settings are set to the strictest level possible

- Be wary of anyone you encounter for the first time online. Block or ignore messages from strangers.

- Be aware that people can pretend to be anything or anyone online. Videos and photos are not proof that a person is who they claim to be.

- Be suspicious if you meet someone on a game or app and they ask you to start talking to them on a different platform.

- Encourage your children to report suspicious behavior to a trusted adult.

### **Tips on how to protect yourself:**

- Never send compromising images of yourself to anyone, no matter who they are or who they say they are.

*Together we will ensure learning success for all students  
to develop their unique potential as caring citizens in a changing world.*

– Do not open attachments from people you do not know. Links can secretly hack your electronic devices using malware to gain access to your private data, photos, and contacts, or control your web camera and microphone without your knowledge.

– Turn off your electronic devices and web cameras when not in use.

If you are receiving sextortion threats:

– Remember you are not alone as thousands are victimized by this scam.

– Stop all interaction with the extortionist and do not be embarrassed or afraid to contact law enforcement.

As mentioned above, please be diligent in checking in with your child about this topic and reach out to law enforcement if you suspect predatory online behavior. For further resources, please visit the site [NeedHelpNow.ca](http://NeedHelpNow.ca)

Sincerely,

The Palliser Central Office Team