

Dear Parents/Guardians,

One of the learning intentions this year will be to increase the student's ability to pursue the answers to their own wonders. They will be guided in how to refine their searches, as well becoming stronger at judging the validity and intentions of web sites they utilize. Below are some things that may help their searches at home. The students have also been shown how to access their new epic accounts, where they can view over 2000 fiction and non-fiction books for free at home. We will be discussing the importance of cross checking facts in published sources.

### Some Tips For Researching At Home Using The Internet

Using the usual search engines and adding the words for kids at the end does some filtering to find more suitable reading level sites. Each search engine does only hit about 40% of the sites, so using more than one and backing them up with published sources is always a good idea. Parental guidance and monitoring is also recommended.

Another way to filter more appropriate sites for kids is to utilize the Burnaby South High School website. By going into their library catalogue section, there is a section called Web Path Express that not only filters sites in the search, but lists the grade appropriateness of them beside each site.

We have also looked at web resources that are available from our school web site. If you visit [westridge.burnabyschools.ca](http://westridge.burnabyschools.ca), click on the library section and you can then click on web resources. By using the login: bbywestridge and the password: search, you can access online encyclopaedias, magazines, and recommended lists of novels for all reading levels.

Other useful sites are [nationalgeographic.com](http://nationalgeographic.com), [kidinfo.com](http://kidinfo.com), [kiddle](http://kiddle), and [pbs.org](http://pbs.org)  
And, of course having physical books that have gone through a publishing house, usually helps us double check our facts.

One other way that will help you see your child's work at home is that students have now been set up with Office 365 accounts that can be accessed at home for you to view writings that they are working on.

Thank you for your support,  
M. Nielsen