

## **Information from SD#23**

*The Central Okanagan School District would like to inform parents and students in our community about a social media website called Ask.fm (<http://Ask.fm>)*

*Ask.fm allows members to send and receive anonymous questions and comments to anyone with an Ask.fm account. This website allows users to send online messages without revealing their identity. We have recently discovered that many students in our School District have set up Ask.fm accounts in order to send and receive messages to and from their peers. Unfortunately, there have been an increasing number of situations where the message exchange has resulted in cyber-bullying and harrassment of other students.*

*Unlike other social media services such as Facebook and Twitter, the Ask. fm site is not designed to report offensive comments, increase privacy settings or find out who is behind anonymous messages. In response to these issues, the School District has blocked access to Ask.fm on ALL school and district networks.*

*Despite these actions, students can still access Ask.fm using personal smartphones and computers at home. As with any social media service, the School District urges all parents to become aware of their children's online activities. Please monitor your children's social media accounts and talk with your children about their roles in becoming responsible digital citizens. For help with these conversations, please refer to the Central Okanagan School District Policy 486 - Student Use of Electronic and Social Media Communication.*