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Subject: Social Media Site Causing Havoc For Some Students/Families

Parents/Guardians,

It has come to our attention that students from Linden and surrounding schools are accessing a new and very inappropriate social media application called **"afterschoolapp.com."** The app is described as "an anonymous and private message board for your school" and can be downloaded to an iPhone, iPod or through Safari (a web browser developed by Apple) and accessed via Facebook. It is **not affiliated, endorsed or organized through Linden Community Schools** and the site was restricted from school-access as soon as we found out about it. However, anyone with an iPhone with at least 3G access can still get to the site whenever they want.

We want to make sure you understand even though this app is self-described as an 'After School – Funny Anonymous School News Site For Confessions and Compliments,' it seems many users are not experiencing anything positive pertaining to this app. The app is free and rated for ages 12 and over, so our concern is without prior knowledge, you may not be aware of the type of content actually being posted to the site. The district has received several calls about this site from parents whose students are upset regarding the content on this site. It appears that graphic and sexually explicit videos are being posted and then students are posting inappropriate comments, sometimes about fellow students in their own or neighboring school districts.

We would encourage you to talk with your student about this site and the responsible use of social media. If you want to check to see if your child has downloaded the app to his/her iPhone and/or iPod, look for an icon of a tiger wearing yellow striped sunglasses or a girl in a bikini with a tiger's head. Our School Resource Officers have been made aware of this site. Unfortunately, since posts are made anonymously, there is little anyone can do if a student is being bullied or harassed. The site itself, in the FAQ section, gives this email address to contact if the site is being used inappropriately or you experience "objectionable content": support@afterschoolapp.com.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Ed Koledo
Superintendent
Linden Community Schools