Dear Parents/Guardians,

In recent years we have seen a surge of misinformation, highlighting the need to equip our students with the skills to recognize credible information and avoid falling for falsehoods, especially on social media. As a result, **news literacy** will be an important focus in our class this year. Students will learn about the characteristics of credible information, and how to use critical thinking skills to avoid being exploited by misinformation.

We will be using Checkology®, an innovative e-learning platform, and other resources created by the News Literacy Project (NLP), a nonpartisan national education nonprofit. NLP strives to provide students with a comprehensive, nuanced and unbiased approach to learning news literacy. NLP's lessons and resources teach students *how* to think about news and information, not *what* to think. All topics covered will be addressed respectfully, and NLP lessons use a variety of authentic examples of news and information without endorsing any specific news organizations or other sources. You can read more about NLP and its work at newslit.org.

Want to support our news literacy learning at home?

NLP offers a public version of Checkology, so feel free to register for an account and learn along with us! Just visit checkology.org and register for an Independent Learner account. You can also check out NLP's other free resources for the public at newslit.org/for-everyone, which include an app, a newsletter, a podcast and shareable tips and tools. With these resources, you can help your student spot misinformation, differentiate news from opinion and advertising, or engage with important news literacy questions such as, "What makes a story newsworthy?"

Thank you for supporting our news literacy focus this year. I look forward to working alongside you to help your student develop the skills needed to be more news-literate and avoid dangerous misinformation online.

Sincerely,

Your student's teacher

What is Checkology?

Checkology is NLP's free e-learning platform. Checkology's news literacy lessons fit into four news literacy themes: filtering news and information, exercising civic freedoms, navigating today's information landscape and how to know what information to trust.

Checkology lessons include:

"InfoZones"

Categorize information into one of six "zones": news, opinion, entertainment, advertising, propaganda or raw information.

"The First Amendment"

Learn why the First Amendment's five rights and freedoms are so vital to our democracy. Through case studies, weigh in on Supreme Court decisions in which these protections were challenged.

Practicing Quality Journalism

Learn the standards of quality journalism by playing the role of reporter in a game-like simulation of a breaking news event.