

anonymous apps

what parents need to know about these apps:

Anyone can post anything and all the content is completely anonymous

Many of these apps are location-based so the users are aware that the people they are sharing information with are local - usually people they know

Some of the apps organize users by school or another central location

Users disclose rumors and gossip, secrets of their own, or other's confidences

Users are anonymous but can identify themselves in other ways and are able to identify other users

Users can access other users' general or specific location depending on settings. This opens the door to online predators and other dangerous threats.

From the start, apps that provide anonymity to users have been rampant with online bullying, violent threats between users, as well as terroristic threats (Burns, 2014)

what does this mean for parents

Parents should, as always, be monitoring their child's internet usage and ANY apps the child has on a phone

Be aware of apps like: Poof!, Hide It Pro, and App Lock that hide a smart phone user's chosen apps with one click or swipe