

## Danger on the Web

Teaching adolescents to be responsible citizens of the internet is a challenge. The electronic communications world is an amazing tool with countless benefits. However, it is also a place where adolescents may unwittingly get themselves into negative situations.

Two websites have come to our attention as places where students in our school and around the country are active and there is significant potential for trouble.

The first is [chatroulette.com](http://chatroulette.com). This site brings you to a number of sexually explicit live video sites that feature naked people, mostly males. The people on the site encourage you to dialogue with them. If your computer has a camera, you are being seen by these people. As soon as you click on to the site, the live video appears.

The second is a site called [formspring.me](http://formspring.me). This site invites you to join so that anyone can ask you any sort of question and you can answer it. There are no filters and apparently anything goes. All of the questions can be sent anonymously and all of the questions and answers are open to any all to read. Much of the dialogue is of little consequence, but a good deal of it is quite sexually explicit and rather nasty.

To be sure, both of these sites are blocked here at school. But we believe that students may be accessing them from sites outside of school.

It's troubling that these sites exist (and one would assume there are others like them). The internet requires that all of us be vigilant in supervising and monitoring what electronic activities our adolescents engage in.

We hope that this information helps you.