

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of this letter is to let you know that we completed a lesson on fact-checking websites. It is important for students to know that just because something is on the internet doesn't necessarily mean it is true. By providing the resources to verify a website, we give students the capability to research and validate what they are reading.

Many students (and adults) read articles on websites or social media posts and believe them to be true simply because they were on the internet. In this lesson the students examined a website all about the Pacific Tree Octopus, which appears to be endangered. After reading about the plight of this rare northwestern animal and discussing how they could help, they used a fact checking resource website to check the information they just read. They found out that the Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus is a hoax.

They also learned tips that will help them recognize false information on the internet. For more information, refer to this website: <https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/11174>.

Would you like to know more about the Pacific Tree Octopus? Feel free to go to this website: <http://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/>.

In addition, here is a list of fact-checking web resources for your reference:

- [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com)
- [www.truthorfiction.com](http://www.truthorfiction.com)
- [www.factcheck.org](http://www.factcheck.org)
- [www.politifact.com](http://www.politifact.com)
- [www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org)

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

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Teacher's Name