Dear Parents/Guardians:

I wanted to let you know that your child is learning about risks faced when going online. Today they learned about digital footprints. A digital footprint is the trail or history that is left behind when people interact in digital environments. For example, when you use the Internet or mobile devices for emailing, social media, and texting there is a history of interactions that can often be permanent. Many different types of information can be tracked: websites you visit, what you say in email and posts, how much money you spend, what is said about you, your location and IP address, the search and location words you use, and where you live.

In the lesson on digital footprints, we discussed how how some of the online decisions students make can be risky. Students watched a video called *Follow the Digital Trail* (https://www.commonsensemedia.org/videos/follow-the-digital-trail) that taught them about risky online behaviors, the difference between personal and private information, and types of information that are safe to share online. In addition, they learned about photo sharing and how smart phones automatically attach geotags that mark the location and time of the photo. They learned how sharing photos about locations can be risky.

Now that your child is at home, you can discuss digital footprints and digital trails with them. You can download the family tip sheets on photo sharing.
https://www.commonsensemedia.org/file/case-family-tip-sheet-2/download

If you would like more information about digital footprints please visit Common Sense Media's website for information on privacy https://www.commonsensemedia.org/privacy-and-internet-safety. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Teacher's Name