



Grannie Geek
Keeping You Safe in CyberSpace



The CyberSpace Sleuths

THE CASE OF THE PHISHY TEXT

THE CASE OF THE PHISHING FIASCO

At Highcrest Middle School, something mysterious was going on. The hallways buzzed with whispers while the autumn leaves swirled in the crisp air outside. Ellie and Luke, the 12-year-old twins known for their innate curiosity and knack for solving puzzles, were about to stumble upon a new challenge.

It was a typical Monday morning when Ellie and Luke's phones vibrated simultaneously, displaying an unexpected text message.

"Congratulations! You've both won a \$50 gift card for your favorite video game," read the message from an unknown sender. The twins exchanged a glance, their eyes narrowing in suspicion.

"But we didn't enter any competition," Luke muttered.

"That's odd," Ellie agreed.

As the lunch bell rang and the students funneled into the cafeteria, murmurs of similar messages spread like wildfire. Many had received the same text, promising prizes too good to be true.

Perplexed by the blur of activity and the sea of excited chatter, Ellie and Luke sought solitude in the school library, where they could delve deeper into the mystery.

"Do you think it's a scam?" Luke asked, his brow furrowed as he opened his laptop.

Ellie nodded, her eyes darting across the screen. "Let's check the school's online safety guide. Ms. Clark made sure we all have it bookmarked."

Together, they read, learning that scammers often send messages claiming you've won something to trick you into sharing personal information or to click on harmful links.

As they compared the text message to the examples they found online, a pattern emerged. The message was unsolicited, the sender unknown, and it contained a link asking for personal information.

Luke's fingers danced across the keyboard as he pulled up an article for Ellie to read. "That link could lead to a

phishing site designed to steal our info, or maybe install malware on our phones."

Ellie responded with a serious nod. "We need to warn the others, Luke. They might fall for the scam."

With every tick of the clock, someone else could be falling prey to the phishing scam. Ellie and Luke couldn't let that happen.

At lunch, they commandeered the attention of their peers, urging them to ignore the texts and report the incident to a trusted adult. The principal immediately alerted the district's IT department while the school's resource officer began an investigation.

Ellie and Luke handed out printed tips on how to spot and avoid phishing scams, explaining the potential dangers of clicking on unknown links.

The days following the phishing text scare turned Fairview Middle into a fortress of cyber-smart students. Ellie and Luke had not only cracked the case, but helped their friends understand the importance of online safety.

Mrs. Jenkins was beaming with pride as she announced over the intercom, "Due to the quick thinking of Ellie and

Luke, our students are safe from an elaborate phishing scam. Let's give them a round of applause!"

The twins smiled modestly. They knew that the real victory was the knowledge shared and the disaster avoided, proving that even at Fairview Middle, knowledge was power.

Remember:

Always be cautious with unsolicited messages or emails, and never click on links from unknown sources. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Stay curious, stay alert, and keep learning!



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