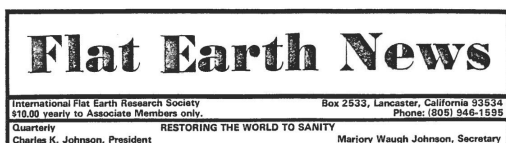


THE DANGERS OF FAKE NEWS AND MEDIA MANIPULATION

By CHRISTIAN BALE on February 18, 2020
Shawnigan Lake School Magazine

Recently, in my class, more and more people approve the flat earth theory

For the past few weeks, the main dilemma in the hallways before Geography class has undoubtedly been whether the Earth is flat or round. Everyone in the class gets involved in the discussion, trying to convince each other. Every day, new unthinkable arguments appear, and gradually people start going to the dark side.



Galileo's Case to Re-open

Galileo Was A Liar Space Shuttle, Democrat Hoax

It all started after Christmas holidays, when our Geography teacher, Mr. Elsberry, spent the whole hour asking the entire 28 class members how they had spent their holidays. (Mr. Elsberry loves his job by the way). The last student to answer (who prefers to remain anonymous) told us that he went to Brazil in order to visit his uncle, Ricardo, for the first time. He only told us that Ricardo is a 60-something years old man whose restaurant in Sao Paulo has become a meeting place for people who reject the notion that the Earth is a sphere. Of course, everyone laughed, including the teacher, but it ended there as the bell rang.

Two weeks went by, and nobody really showed interest on the topic, except a small group who always cause problems and confusion on the class' Whatsapp group, and thinking they are funny. They started sharing some instagram posts of Earth-flat believers (that I'm not going to show), but in large majority, their material came from an account called "officialflatearthsociety", which has more than 20k followers! These posts try, by tons of different ways to convince people that the earth is flat. At the end, everyone got involved in the discussion, and here we are.

After the situation got worse, I decided to take action and interviewed, during lunch, my best friend, Kevin, about the topic:

Q: Do you think that an average American, seeing all those instagram posts could fall into the trap, and eventually become a flat-Earth believer?

A: Absolutely. These posts look very convincing! They are full of numbers, facts that we don't even try to understand, and we get the impression that there has been a scientific study behind all these facts.

Unfortunately the interview stopped there: Kevin had to finish his purée before French class.

I know what you're thinking. Okay, maybe I'm exaggerating: maybe we are only kids, discussing about a stupid conspiracy theory, and maybe next week we will forget about it. But what I think is that we need to start paying attention to who we trust. Which brings me to the next point: how can you tell, my dear reader, that what you are reading is genuine and not just composed of nonsense written to trick you into believing it? Well, there are multiple ways to see what is real and what is false.

-The first thing you must do when you read an online article is to check the source: in some really known sources like *The Guardian* or *The Washington Post* it's rare to find false information.

-If you see news posted on social media by a random person, a celebrity, or a non-official organization, the first thing you want to do is to immediately look up on the internet and see if you can find the same news on trustworthy websites. Remember that social media is where fake news is mostly made viral.

-Also, you must read carefully the news, to see if there is a coherence. Spotting the tone of the article is also very important. If you think that it is too absurd, there is a high probability that it is satiric.

FAKE NEWS RAVAGE SCHOOL! IS QUIZLET SHUTTING DOWN??

Is everything you read online true? Is Quizlet really shutting down?

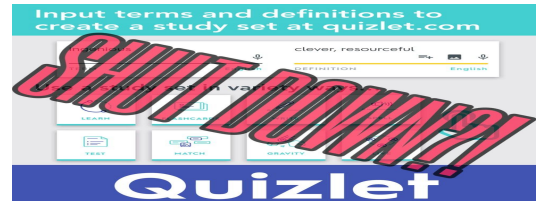
By Ramón Farró

March 30th 2020

Fake news, the term first coined by Trump in 2016 refers to false stories created to influence political views or as a joke. They can come in various shapes and sizes like an article, a picture, or even a tweet.

Fake news nowadays spread like wildfire like the news yesterday about quizlet, the well known platform for learning vocabulary said it was going to shut down. All of this was apparently stated in a tweet by the company's owner but as it turns out the tweet was fake, and Quizlet was not shutting down. However, this has caused quite the ruckus in our school.

The fake tweet spread rapidly from student to student and even to teachers. One of the teachers said when interviewed: "I'm confused, it's not making any sense why they would shut down" and was concerned for the how he would prepare his vocabulary lists in the future: "I don't know how I'm going to do it, Quizlet worked so well for me and all of my vocabulary lists are there".



Although most teachers reacted the same way the students had mixed reactions: "No more vocabulary tests! Hooray!" said one of them while this other one answered "I'm sad to see Quizlet go, it really helped me memorize everything and learn new vocabulary.". Even though this fake news has been proved to be false many people still believe it's true, and like most other fake tweets or articles it has spread really quickly around the school.

Even though people know about the existence of fake news and how to tell if an article is fake news they are still spread around the internet and widely talked about. So to stop these hoaxes one must always check the veracity of an article or a picture, including the source, the date, the author and if it's biased or not. An article that doesn't have a date or the author's name that comes from a little known website and is biased is probably gonna be fake news, so be sure to stay on the lookout for these fake news.

DAILY NEWS

Stop hoarding toilet paper!

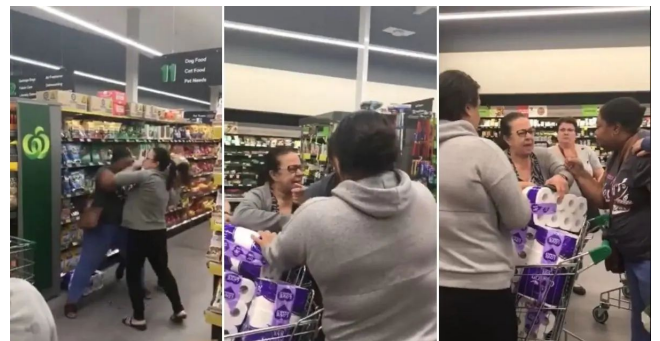
A rumor that has been going around on Instagram, the most popular social media app among youngsters, has led to quite an unusual situation: toilet paper shortage.

The rumour has it that, due to the nova Coronavirus, we will run out of toilet tissue because we won't be able to import the raw materials needed to make the paper from coronavirus-plagued China.

Luckily this rumor is not true! So don't worry, you are not going to run out of toilet paper. Unfortunately, some people do believe in this rumour and have been buying massive amount of bathroom tissue or even fighting to get the last pack of TP.

"The other day, I was peacefully buying toilet paper because we didn't have anymore at home, when a woman snatched the loo paper out of my hands and ran away with it! It was crazy!" explained Leonor Camps, a fellow student, when asked about the subject.

The point of this article is that not everything we see on social media or on the internet is automatically true! We always need to check the information we see with reliable sources before sending it to another person and therefore spreading those fake news.



Ines cereijo.

Check out the new cafeteria's special dish.



Join in the afternoon Reading club. Everyone is welcomed.



CPHS' BLUEPRINT

The school's magazine

IS LIFE ON THE MOON FINALLY CONFIRMED?

More information about this discovery has been revealed. Even if you have or have not heard of that, you must read this.

Joan Bruna, school journalist

During this week, several *Instagram*, *Twitter* and *Facebook* accounts have published a video of a Swedish tycoon showing something apparently subversive. The man, through a telescope, films the moon where some gloomy birds seem to fly over that planet. Then he claims to have made a huge discovery of what are now called in social media "Animoons", which stands for animals and moon. Well, if that is not obvious, those news are completely fake.

Indeed, we are nowadays in a system of beliefs, where people tend not to be careful with what they see. Politicians and enterprises are aware of this fact and they overuse the population by their pervasiveness on the media. Not only are societal issues fake news' topics, but also false random information that manage to trick most of the people. This is actually dangerous because at some point, inhabitants could believe fake news and overlook real ones.

That is what happened with the case of the "Animoons". Everyone is talking about this discovery, on social media, *Youtube* of course at school. Here is what Ada from Grade 11, as other students do, thinks: "When I was first told about those animals living on the moon, I thought they were pulling my leg. But then, thanks to some



Screenshot of the viral video

influencers and web pages I follow, I realized it was true!". On the other hand, several students claim something else. That is what Finn (Grade 11) said: "Weird flying chickens on the moon? Oh come on! You should try something else to fool me."

All in all, different point of views remain on the table, even though the tycoon himself has already admitted he photoshopped the video. So you should keep in mind we must take a critical eye on the news we receive. If we want to get informed by the Internet, then we should make sure to visit trustworthy sources. Reading news from different web sites is the best way to avoid fake news.



FAKE NEWS HAVE CONSEQUENCES

Something that we could and must all stop ...

By Alba Benito
April 1st, 2020

Nowadays, we are surrounded by tons of social media, which is undeniably favorable. Nevertheless, it has some risks we should pay attention to. It is really important that we do not believe everything that is said. As a recent example for what I just said, we are going to talk about the misunderstanding from last week in our school.

For those who didn't know, a girl was missing during two days at school. When she came back, she said she had been sick, but she was feeling better now. The problem came when two boys started rumors saying that she may have had coronavirus, and that she could still carry the virus. This lie spread very quickly between the students, and someone decided to publish it in Instagram, telling that we could all be in danger. The next day, this girl was getting insulted, and avoided by everyone. She skipped school a whole week because of that. It has been proved it was not true, but this girl is still unwilling to come back. I interviewed one of her friends Lilly:

" - So, what did you do when you heard the rumor.

- I couldn't believe it, but I still had to be careful because if it was true, I did not want to have it and be criticized too.
- Yes but still, you did not have any proof of that.

- Well I didn't have any proof that it was false.
- And you decided to follow everybody? I mean, I can understand that because it's what most people did.
- I am so sorry. Anyway, I know I should have helped her, and I hope she comes back soon, and forgives us all, 'cause we weren't really thinking."

We should be more critical with information given to us, and information that we transmit to other people, because things have consequences. In addition to this the best thing to know if something is real, is to contrast with other different trustworthy sources, and most importantly ask ourselves if what they are telling me could be truth and realistic or not. With this we can avoid unnecessary trouble, and we are going to be manipulated less easily.



Big apology to Lilly, organised by the students, on the 30th, March 2020.

LYCÉE FRANÇAIS DE BARCELONE



“COVID 19, full of fake news”

Mateo Fernandez
March 28th of 2020

Social media spreading fake news about Covid-19.

Nowadays, we all use and have new technologies, as mobilephones, laptops, computers, tablets... This makes easier to connect people and to share information; articles, photos and videos. That is the reason why fake news, are more and more common on the medias. The fact is that, a most of teenagers use nowadays social media, according to experts 92% of teenagers have created a profile in any social media, and as we know teenagers and child are the most manipulable people, whereas a lot of adults are also easily influenced.

At this moment we are living a difficult situation with Covid 19, popularly known as coronavirus. Some fake news which talked about this virus, were spread by teenagers in Intagram.



The week before school closed, people were spreading an article which said, that Covid 19 was less serious than a flu. So lots of people, the most of them were teenagers, didn't take care about what they touched, if they washed their hands, and started

touching their faces. But, this was fake, because the probabilities of dying with coronavirus are higher than with a simple flu. So because, of this people who read the article an believed that was true, could have taken the virus and infected older people, who are the vulnerable people. So the simply fact of spreading a fake new at this moment has killed lots of people.



In my opinion, we have a big problem with media manipulation in our society. I think that the government has to take measures in order to finish with fake news, but us teenagers, we need to do something in order to finish with this, we are the main responsables. Us, teenagers we need to stop believing all the information that we read, we have to check information before spreading it. Because, if we don't stop that can have very serious consequences.