Drake and Josh, Season 3, Episode 2: “Peruvian Puff Peppers”

Technology in Drake and Josh

Drake and Josh was a highly popular television show on Nickelodeon. It aired for four seasons in total. The show is based on two stepbrothers, Drake and Josh, living through their high school years dealing with problems that many teenagers face. Their little sister, Megan, is constantly pranking them and getting them into trouble. Their parents believe Megan is the sweetest, most innocent girl around so the boys can never seem to get back at her for all she has done to them. Megan is always using gadgets and devices to prank them such as exploding floors or trap doors. She hides a huge surveillance panel behind one of her bedroom walls so that she can always keep tabs on Drake and Josh. In season three, episode two: “Peruvian Puff Peppers”, the boys finally find out about her surveillance panel. Such a big piece of technology for such a little girl is impressive and Drake and Josh cannot believe it. This just goes to show that these days anyone is capable of using and implementing technology for any reasons necessary.

The episode, “Peruvian Puff Peppers”, is about Drake and Josh entering a salsa making competition in hopes of winning the grand prize, a flat screen television. Megan wants to help the boys win the television for the family but the boys want to keep it for themselves. After hearing this Megan plans to sabotage their chances at winning by putting an exploding substance into their salsa causing it to erupt over the whole kitchen. Drake and Josh are certain Megan is behind this and want to expose her to their parents once and for all. They sneak into her room while she is out of the house and
discover her grand surveillance panel behind her hidden wall. Megan arrives home before her parents and is able to hide her panel before Drake and Josh can get their mom and dad upstairs to see it. Megan ends up entering the salsa contest and holds a telephone conversation with someone about Peruvian Puff Peppers knowing that her brothers are listening. What the boys don’t know is that these peppers are illegal to use in the contest. Megan knows that Drake and Josh will try to steal these peppers as they believe they are the key to victory. Drake and Josh end up winning the competition but later get disqualified for their illegal peppers as the flat screen goes to second place which just so happens to be Megan. The episode ends with Megan sitting back and relaxing while she watches the boys clean up and repaint the kitchen after the salsa disaster.

Surveillance panels are a luxury available to anyone who has the money to pay for them. Most surveillance panels today are used as security for places such as malls or warehouses. Companies like such often hire people to sit in front of these panels that show camera views of different parts of the facility. The average reported cost of installing an in-home security panel with cameras, such as the one from Drake and Josh, comes out at $1,500 (HomeAdvisor 2017). In the show, the panel is used as nothing more than a spy device. Megan checks the cameras to know where Drake and Josh are located at all times so she can scheme and execute her pranks to perfection. For Drake and Josh, the panel affects them in a negative manner. It provides them with a distinct disadvantage when trying to combat Megan and her evil ways. Megan on the other hand, sees her flashy surveillance panel as nothing less than a luxury. Without it, she would have a tough time pulling off her devastating, yet creative, pranks against Drake and Josh. In the real world these types of panels are mostly used for the greater good. They can be used at businesses to detect potential thieves or robbers. They can be used as evidence if a robbery has already taken place. They can also be used in factories as a way for companies to make sure that their employees are staying on task and not getting side tracked. For the most part this technology is used for ethical reasons. It is possible that these panels and cameras could be used for bad reasons as
well. As part of their plan, a robber could install hidden cameras in the house or business they are planning to attack in order to get a sense of how things run on a day to day basis. This could help them in planning on when and how to approach their mission. In the near future, this technology will most likely become much smaller and hands on. Even today you can see the world moving towards mobile based security systems. There are security systems now that are completely run through the owner’s phone. The operator can lock doors, turn off lights, turn off utilities, and alert neighbors if a threat is detected. Like most technology, I only see the surveillance panel slowly turning into another app to be purchased on the app store. Some of the higher tech surveillance panels owned by the rich or the government, are touch screen. These allow the operators to swipe different camera views on and off the screen. These capabilities make for a more efficient product.

You see surveillance panels portrayed all the time in the movies as these high tech pieces of equipment used for stalking, spying, and intelligence. In reality, they are mainly used for security measures and aren’t usually as flashy and high tech as what is seen on television. A surveillance panel can be used by many different people whether it’s a homeowner wanting to keep tabs on his house at night or simply a mall cop doing his job while sitting behind the screens watching everything going on in the mall, making sure any danger is avoided. Surveillance cameras have been around for several years and will probably be around for some time to come. People will always be wanting security cameras and systems keeping them safe at night while they sleep and little girls like Megan will be around striving for fun new ways to torment their older brothers.