

MISSOURI SAFE SCHOOLS

Newsletter of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools

February 2005

FROM THE DIRECTOR . . .

The Center is closing out another year of successful Safety Coordinator Trainings. The last Safety Coordinator Training is scheduled for March 11, 2005 at the Kansas City RPDC. In May, we will be contacting all safety coordinators who attend the 2004-2005 trainings about our annual online survey. Your participation in the survey is greatly appreciated and your comments are extremely helpful to the Center.

In the near future the Center's staff will start planning for next year's Safety Coordinator Trainings. Please contact Russ or me if you have any suggestions for topics on the 2005-06 trainings.

At a recent i-SAFE Professional Development Plan Training, a question regarding filtering of inappropriate websites was asked. My understanding is that the issue of filtering and what should be filtered is an issue that should be addressed at school district level. However, MOREnet does provide a service to MOREnet customers to access the Secure Computings' Bess content filtering software. For a complete description of the Bess content filtering solution visit MOREnet's website at <http://www.more.net/services/filter/index.html#desc>.

Finally, we are instituting a Share Your Success column in the newsletter. Have you implemented a safety program that has gotten results? Share it with other safety coordinators in the newsletter. Write:

berryg@umkc.edu or
thompsonrs@umkc.edu.

In this newsletter you will find articles on the following current safety topics:

- i-SAFE (internet safety) Trainings. Check dates and times in this newsletter.
- Last FY 2004-05 Safety Coordinator Training for the year. Check date and time in this newsletter.
- Monitoring and action for the cold/flu season.
- Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services funding opportunity for using the School Health Index.
- National Youth Service Day 2005:
- Addressing the Cyber Bullying Issue.

As always, keep up the good work!

Glenn Berry

SAFETY COORDINATOR TRAINING

There is one last chance for Safety Coordinator Training this year. The Basic and Advanced courses will be offered in Kansas City on March 11, 2005. The location will be the Plaza Room of the Administrative Center, University of Missouri-Kansas City. Attendees must register with the Kansas City Regional Professional Development Center at 800-555-9048 or 816-235-5627. The Basic course begins at 8:30 a.m. and the Advanced course at 12:30.

MO NOVA

The MO NOVA Community Crisis Team can help students and faculty recover from a sudden traumatic event. The MO NOVA team is affiliated with the National Organization for Victim Assistance (www.trynova.org) and has members all throughout Missouri. The team works closely with local, regional and state disaster response plans. They come from varied professional backgrounds. All are trained crisis responders and the team leaders are certified.

After a traumatic event, whether it be at school or within the community and it affects the school, the students, faculty and staff are soon likely to react with a different set of emotions, which may include sadness, anger, fear, helplessness or euphoria. If your school community is in that situation, consider the MO NOVA team as a resource. The MO NOVA team is trained to serve as consultant to the faculty and counselors of a school in severe distress. We can provide help developing an immediate plan of action. We can provide small teams for work with classrooms, individual students, faculty, bus drivers, staff or others as appropriate. These resources augment and support the school counselors, rather than replacing them. There is no charge to the district for these services.

Examples of events that the MO NOVA Community Crisis Team has responded to in Missouri schools are: student homicide, student sudden death, student DWI fatality, student kidnapping and rape, student bus fatality, faculty sudden death, and community devastation by tornado. Members of the Missouri NOVA team have also responded nationally to Jonesboro, AK, aftermath September.11, San Diego fires and the Florida hurricanes. If your school

would like further information or you are interested in being a part of this team you can contact: Mary Young, MO NOVA Coordinator, 417-532-8252 or e-mail yramy@webound.com

REGIONAL SCIENCE LAB SAFETY COURSES

As reported in previous newsletters, we have been involved in the development of a training and science lab safety management tool in the project. The CD-ROM was produced by Dr. Jack Gerlovich, Drake University, in collaboration with the project committee. The CD-ROM includes information that science teachers in Missouri need to have available to them regarding safety standards. The CD-ROM also includes inventory management tools (for producing labels, separating non-compatibles, conducting inventories, generating material safety data sheets, etc.). Schools/districts not included in the grant application will have the opportunity to buy the CD-ROM at \$70 per copy. The CD-ROM was completed during the first week of November with the inclusion of a message from Dr. King, the Commissioner of Education.

We are now able to announce three regional workshops at which the CD-ROM will be made available. Registration is through the Regional Professional Development Center. The workshops are:
 Kansas City—May 5 (800-555-9048)
 Columbia—May 6 (800-214-2753)
 St. Louis—May 7 (800-835-8282)

COLD/FLU SEASON

By monitoring student attendance and coordinating actions with custodial staff,

school administrators and health personnel, schools can reduce the number of students and staff contracting a cold or the flu at school.

Step 1: Monitor Raw Attendance Percentage numbers. If absentee numbers start to spike, implement sanitation procedures for custodial staff.

Step 2: In addition to “daily general cleaning for classrooms” institute the additional items:

1. Wipe down all hard surfaces with a disinfectant solution and disposable towels. (This includes, but may not be limited to: desk tops, table tops, and chairs)
2. Mist the room with a disinfectant spray as a final step before leaving the room.
3. All towels used to disinfect a room are to be disposed of before leaving the room. (Do not reuse disposable towels to disinfect more than one room)

For more information contact: Bob Watts, Director of Facilities, Warrensburg School District, at: bwatts@warrensburg.k12.mo.us.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) recently sent information to all Missouri School Districts about a funding opportunity. The department will be awarding up to eighty (80) fixed-price contracts to schools, up to a maximum award of \$2,950, for using the School Health Index: A Self-assessment and Planning Guide. A copy of the School

Health Index is available on the web at: <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/shi/>.

For more information contact Joy Oesterly at: 573-751-6215.

CYBERBULLYING

High-tech harassment is hitting teens hard. The tragic story of Ryan Halligan reflects how serious the problem has become. Ryan Halligan hanged himself after prolonged bullying at school and at home through the Internet. He was repeatedly taunted online. Due to the continued bullying, Ryan latched on to the idea of killing himself as vengeance against those who had hurt him.

Many schools are increasingly faced with the issues surrounding cyber bullying. A recently written article by Nancy Willard, M.S., J.C., Director Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use, provides suggestions on addressing the cyber bullying problem. Some of the questions she discusses in the article are:

- What is Cyberbullying?
- What is the Impact of Cyberbullying?
- Why are people willing to do or say things on the Internet that they would be much less likely to do or say in person?
- How can educators apply what is known about disinhibition to the development of effective strategies to address cyberbullying?
- What are the legal concerns related to schools and cyberbullying?
- What are the other legal considerations related to cyberbullying?

- How can schools develop a comprehensive approach to address cyberbullying?
- Intervention Strategies for Cyberbullying Directed at Students?
- Intervention Strategies for Speech Directed at Staff or School?

To read the complete article and learn more about this serious topic go to cyberbully.org and under Professional Development, click on, Educator's Guide to Cyberbullying. For additional sources on the subject: isafe.org, cyberbullying.ca, and novabucks.org.

MISSOURI VIOLENCE PREVENTION CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

The State Board of Education approved a revision to the Missouri Violence Prevention Curriculum Framework at the December 16, 2004 meeting. The revision is available on the "downloads" sub-page of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools website, www.umkc.edu/safe-school. Copies will be distributed to superintendents in the near future.

DISASTER TRAINING FOR STUDENTS

Teen SERT (School Emergency Response Training) is an in-class, curriculum-based program that provides students with a knowledge base on the effects of natural and human-caused disasters and their emotional, social, and economic impacts. It builds decision-making and problem solving skills and strategies to help students make informed decisions regarding readiness, response,

recovery and mitigation efforts to reduce loss of life and property.

The program is ready for any school interested in implementing it. A model, schedule, task list, pilot school's lessons learned and student survey results, curriculum, and PowerPoint presentation are available by sending \$10 (for postage and CD/mailer) to Haley Rich (Teen SERT Program Fonder), 858 W. Cambria Drive, Pueblo, CO 81007, teensert@hotmail.com.

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY April 15-17, 2005

Do you like adventures? Do you like to see change? If that is so then you will enjoy planning a project for National Youth Service Day. Get your family and friends together either at school, church or in your neighborhood and plan what you can do for others in your community.

That opportunity can open doors to new friendships, friendly neighbors and happy families. If you need help in planning an event then visit the Project AIM (Assets In Motion) website at www.project-aim.org or email Peggy Gilliland at universe@project-aim.org. Please remember "If Not You? Then WHO? You've Got the Power! Put it in Motion.

i-SAFE INITIATIVE

The Center for Safe Schools and the Regional Professional Development Centers are partnering with i-SAFE to train educators and law enforcement officials on how to present the Internets safety curriculum in the classroom. The i-SAFE

curriculum integrates teaching and learning activities for grades K-12, which cover key topics such as the tools and techniques that online predators use to lure and seduce kids. The lessons combine age appropriate discussions on collaborative learning projects that can be utilized in classrooms with and without computer access.

Upcoming training sessions are:

- ✓ Feb 9: Northwest Regional Professional Development Center, Maryville, Marsha Martin, 800-663-3348
- ✓ May 10 and 11: Cooperating School Districts in St. Louis, 4:00-7:00 each day, <http://www.csd.org>, "Technology Training" sub-page, "2004-05 Fall & Spring Class

Schedule”

More i-SAFE training is being scheduled. St. Louis Regional Professional Development Center (Nancy at 800-835-8282) is planning a session in May 2005.

Dr. Russ Thompson, Associate Director of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools, is the newsletter editor. If you would like to submit an article for a future *Missouri Safe Schools Newsletter*, please send him your submission by e-mail to thompsonrs@umkc.edu or mail it to:

Missouri Center for Safe Schools
UMKC School of Education, Suite 024
5100 Rockhill Road
Kansas City, MO 64110-2499