

MISSOURI SAFE SCHOOLS

Newsletter of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools

February 2007

FROM THE DIRECTOR . . .

Is Internet safety education taught in your district? Recently, I co-presented at the CharacterPlus/Cooperating School Districts inservice in St. Louis. The inservice addressed two Cyber-safety education resources available for schools, i-Safe America and NetSmartz.

i-Safe America is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating and empowering youth to make their Internet experience safe and responsible. The i-Safe solution has four components: school, home, friends, and community. The school component includes free K-12 interactive, structured lesson plans, curriculum, and a library safe card program. The other components include i-Mentor program, i-Parent program, and Community Awareness Program. The only requirement to receive the free resource is to have a staff member complete the 4-5 hour professional development training.

NetSmartz is an interactive educational safety resource for children ages 5-17. Three overlapping programs are designed for grades K-12: Click's Web World, NetSmartz Rules, and 1360. Students can complete the computer activities at their own pace through an independent learning program, in an after-school setting or at home on a computer.

At the Center we encourage school districts to utilize both Internet safety programs, i-Safe as a classroom-based curriculum and NetSmartz as an

independent learning tool for the classroom or after school. Both programs are funded by the same government agency. For more information, go to your Regional Professional Development Center or MORE.net (John Riley or Greg Wheeling).

Have a safe 2007.

Glenn Berry

SAFETY COORDINATOR TRAINING

There are two more opportunities for Advanced Safety Coordinator training this school year. They are:

- January 30, 2007 – Southwest Center for Educational Excellence – Webb City (888-855-9478)
- February 13, 2007 - Heart of Missouri RPDC, Columbia (800-214-2753)

Registration will be made directly with the Regional Professional Development Center. Both of these trainings start at 9:00 A.M. and go to 3:30 P.M.

This is a 6-hour training. The training covers many different safety issues, including:

- Emergency Management Planning
 - Overview of Lessons Learned at Bailey, CO

- Intruder Table Top Exercise
- Media – Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication (CERC)
- Update Safety Review Checklist
- MSIP Cycle Four -Violence Prevention Information – presented by the Area Supervisor
- Bullying Prevention – Olweus/Stop Bullying Now Project
- Positive Behavior Support (PBS) – presented by the PBS RPDC Representative
- Growing Problem of Gambling Among Middle/High School Students – presented by Melissa Stephens, MO Lottery
- Pandemic Procedures
- Networking
- Other topics: Cell Phones, Integrated Pest Management, etc.

Basic Safety Coordinator training is now provided on-line. This training is FREE. To access this training go to the homepage of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools (<http://education.umkc.edu/safe-school>) and follow the instructions. New safety coordinators are encouraged to take this training as soon as they are appointed.

NATIONAL SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER TRAINING

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT) District 7, Alliance of Southwest Missouri, Joplin School District, and the Missouri Center for Safe Schools are hosting a repeat of the full-day training by the National School Safety Center at the MODOT District 7 conference

room in Joplin, on Friday, February 16, 2007. The course title is “What if? The Role of Schools in Terrorism Preparedness.” The training is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Community Oriented Policing (COPS). The training curriculum addresses:

- Building school capacity for self-reliance
- Role of schools in Homeland Security
- Understanding terrorism
- Schools as targets of terror

Registration is \$25 and includes the refreshments, lunch meal, and a notebook of handouts. The registration instructions and the registration form are at: <http://education.umkc.edu/safe-school>

The MODOT District 7 office is at 3901 East 32nd Street in Joplin, MO 64802. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The training begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m.

NOAA RADIOS

Did you receive the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) hazard warning radio from the National Weather Service and the Department of Homeland Security this school year? Every public school in Missouri should have received one, delivered directly to the school by Federal Express or other shipper.

If your school did not receive a NOAA radio this school year (or last school year in Kansas City), send an e-mail message to Lori Gee at the Missouri Center for Safe Schools, geel@umkc.edu, with the name of the school, the street address, city, zip code, name of principal and telephone number. We need this information by close of

business February 23. We will consolidate the Missouri list and submit it to the National Weather Service program manager. They will check the list against their delivery records. If the school was overlooked, we hope that they will be able to get a radio to you.

NOAA radios are important to the early receipt of warning messages. Originally conceived as a means to deliver weather warnings, the system now cover all hazards—terrorism, abducted children, chemical spills, etc.

If you did receive your new NOAA radio, register it at <http://public-alert-radio.nws.noaa.gov/>. Make sure there are good batteries installed, that the radio is plugged in at a position where there is signal reception, and that the radio is tuned to the correct channel for your area. Get in the habit of having someone carry the radio when you conduct drills and move into your shelter area.

LESSONS LEARNED PUBLICATION

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, in collaboration with the Emergency Response and Crisis Management Technical Assistance Center has released a new series of resource publications for school district engaged in improving the emergency management practices with their school communities. This series, entitled *Lesson Learned*, offers brief summaries of actual school emergencies and crises, along with the resulting lessons learned. The first two issues are available online (<http://www.ercm.org/views/documents/>) and include:

- “Dealing with Weapons on Campus”
- “Coordinated Response to Multiple Deaths in a school Community Helps the Healing Begin”

Other documents available at the same website are:

- “After Action Reports”
- “Recovering from Natural Disasters: Lessons Learned from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita”

EARTHQUAKE AWARENESS

The State Emergency Management Agency and the Missouri Seismic Safety Commission are hosting a college course in southeast Missouri for teachers on February 10-11, 2007, during Earthquake Awareness Week 2007. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources will coordinate course instruction, which will provide participants with an understanding of the dynamics of earthquakes and the risks associated with the New Madrid fault. In addition, the participants will tour sites in southeast Missouri related to the historical earthquakes that occurred in 1811-12.

Registration fee is \$30. For more information contact the SEMA Earthquake Program Manager Steve Besemer at (573) 526-9232.

SAFETY AND ELLS

The cultural “construct” of English Language Learners (ELLs) needs to be understood when dealing with any safety issue. The ELL's reaction to bullying or violent behavior might be misleading if the

culture of that child is not understood. Many cultures are group-oriented and do not support “telling” on peers. Group-orientation may also be interpreted by others as promoting of “gang” activity.

Their new environment and assimilation into American culture can cause frustration and anger for the ELLs, who may then act out in a bullying manner. Frustration results when the ELLs follow their cultural norms only to learn the behavior is not deemed appropriate within the American school setting. For example, some Muslim families believe in male superiority. The Muslim male student from one of those families may treat female peers in a demeaning manor, behavior that is unacceptable here.

When ELLs are involved, always be culturally aware and ask questions, do not assume! This simple act will help you and your ELLs avoid misunderstandings.

If you have any questions concerning cultural examples, please contact me.

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ASSESSING THREATENING BEHAVIOR

The Missouri Association of School Psychologists (MASP) is hosting a 1-day training on increasing awareness of troubled students and effective assessment and intervention for threats and other potentially dangerous behavior. The workshop takes place at the Lenoir Center in Columbia on March 9, 2007. The presenter is Linda

Kanan, PhD., an Intervention Specialist with the Cherry Creek School District in Englewood, Colorado.

The conference begins with welcoming remarks at 8:45 a.m. Wrap up is at 3:30 p.m. The registration fee is \$50 for MASP members and \$60 for nonmembers. The registration fee includes lunch. For more information contact Marci Brown-Turlin, (816) 316-5276.

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

For the second year in a row, teen dating violence awareness and prevention efforts will capture the nation’s attention in February due to Senate Resolution 621, calling for a national Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week, February 5 – 9, 2007.

The Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Initiative was spearheaded by teenagers across the nation who committed to put a stop to teen dating violence. Initiated in 2004 by the American Bar Association and now supported by dozens of national, state and local organizations, the call to end teen dating violence was formally recognized in February of 2006 when both houses of Congress declared the first week in February “Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week.”

The resolution calls on government representatives and agencies, private organizations and public officials to promote activities and prevention strategies that aim to reduce the high incidence of teen dating violence. A toolkit for use by teens, teachers, parents, counselors, judges, attorneys, and law enforcement officials is

available from the American Bar Association at
<http://www.abanet.org/unmet/toolkitmaterials.html>.

WELLNESS POLICY SURVEY

The SIC Reauthorization Act requires all school districts that participate in the National School Lunch Program develop, implement and evaluate a Local Wellness Policy. In order to assist school districts with this requirement, the Missouri Council on Physical Activity and Nutrition (MoCAN) School Work Group, with representatives from DESE, DHSS, MSBA, University of Missouri Extension, and other education and health organizations, is requesting all schools complete a brief on-line (5-7 question) survey. School administrators will receive the request to complete the survey via email in February 2007.

As an expression of appreciation for participation in the Local Wellness Policy Survey, all schools that complete the survey may request free nutrition education materials via a web link included in the survey.

For questions regarding the Local Wellness Policy Survey, contact Cindy DeBlauw at deblauwc@missouri.edu.

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:
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