

Dear Parents,

These past weeks we have been covering internet safety. Some questions to ask your student(s) are: Would putting this information on my site put me in any danger. Would my mom, dad, college recruiter, prospective employer like what I wrote/ or be offended? We also cover proper etiquette on-line: Treat others on-line how you would like to be treated (no bullying), friends are the people you see face-to-face, and keep what you are saying general do not give out specific information or any personal information. Below are some of the resources we use to cover internet safety.

Missing:

Missing, is an interactive game or simulation (SIMS) lesson on internet safety. GTACS purchased this program through LiveWires Design Ltd.

(<http://www.webwisekids.org/>) Missing is a two disk game that corresponds with a detective's notebook that the students fill out as they play the game. Students need to fill out all of the information to be able to progress to the next level. This game is played by our 6th graders and they enjoy playing the game. At the end of the game they work on worksheets from Cyber Smart as well as create a Power-Point presentation about internet safety. We also have Detective Kevin Gay come in to talk with our students.

Detective Kevin Gay, Traverse City, City Police:

Detective Kevin comes to our school to talk with our students about internet safety and on line predators. He has a Power-Point presentation that he shows that is very informative. He has two versions of this presentation one for students and one for parents.

AirDogs:

AirDogs, is also an interactive game or SIMS lesson. GTACS purchased this program through LiveWires Design Ltd. (<http://www.webwisekids.org/>). This lesson focuses on cyber bullying and also on-line fraud. This game is played by our 7th grade students. This game is faster than, Missing, which can take 4-5 days while AirDogs takes about 2-3 days. The detective manual is only one page versus the ten page manual for Missing. Students seem to enjoy playing this game. We finish off with handouts from Cyber Smart on dealing with on-line bullying as well as create a Power-Point about internet safety and bullying on-line.

Video:

Web Wise Kids, is a site that has a brief video of a young student, Katie, who experiences an on-line predator and ends up playing the Missing game through her local police station. Because of the Missing game Katie comes to realize that by chatting with this stranger (who she thought of as a boyfriend) was extremely dangerous. This video is viewed by our 8th graders. The 8th graders also finish the internet safety week with handouts from Cyber Smart on dealing with how to

be safe on-line. We also discuss how to set security settings for Myspace and Facebook. Although we do not promote these social networks we do promote keeping our students safe on-line.

<http://www.webwisekids.org/index.asp?page=katiesStory>

Kim Komando:

Kim Komando is a radio show host that discusses issues about technology. She has great materials for parents to view talking about many different issues one of the issues includes Facebook and MySpace. You can view these hints for parents at www.komando.com then click the tab "Parent Advice". Much of her information is free but to get to some of her information you may have to join her club. You can view Kim's MySpace quiz at www.komando.com/myspace .

Cyber Smart:

Cyber Smart Curriculum is a great resource for internet safety. This site provides worksheets for all grade levels. These worksheets can stand alone or work within a lesson that Cyber Smart has built. These lessons include links to sites that the students can explore to answer the questions on the worksheets. This site also provides "Home Connections" which are newsletters with some great advice for parents. All pages that you can print are in ".pdf" format. Please feel free to explore this cite and see the worksheets that your student(s) will be using.

<http://www.cybersmartcurriculum.org/>

Parental Control Software and Web Sites

These three sites were recommended by Kim Komando and the Kim Komando Radio Show

<http://www.komando.com>

Guardian Monitor <http://www.guardiansoftware.com/index.html>

PC Tattletale <http://www.pctattletale.com/>

eBlaster <http://www.spectorsoft.com>

These sites were recommended by Detective Kevin Gay who is with the Traverse City Police Department Computer Crime Unit. His contact information is: KGay@traversecitymi.gov

Cyber Sitter – <http://Cybersitter.com> Internet filtering \$39.95.

Spector Pro – <http://Spectorsoft.com> records extensive computer activity \$100.

Gurl Watcher – <http://Quicomm.com> records web sites visited \$20.

Freedom Parental controls – <http://Freedom.net> Internet Filtering \$30.

Childsafe 3.0 – <http://webroot.com> monitors activity, filters internet \$40.

Net Nanny 4 - www.netnanny.com Filters Internet, monitors activity \$39

Cyber Patrol 5.0 - www.CyberPatrol.com Prevents child/children from giving out personal information. This site is the highest rated program.

Controlled through internet \$49 There is a free trial version that you can try.

Cyber sentinel - www.cybersentinel.co.uk/ Chat monitoring, stealth operation, notified through e- mail for violations \$35.

<http://Tu cows.com> - Software site

<http://Dogpile.com> - Search engine. Type “Parental Control Software” in the search box

<http://Google.com> - Search engine. Type “Parental Control Software” in search box