



Back to School: Beware of the Cyber Bully

Cyber Bullying Enters the Home

The i-SAFE America research team has discovered a disturbing trend—cyber bullying has affected more than half the students surveyed, on both sides of the issue. Their latest assessments surveyed more than 1500 students ranging from fourth to eighth grade across the country. They found out:

- 58% of kids admit someone has said mean or hurtful things to them online
- 53% of kids admit having said something mean or hurtful things to another online
- 42% of kids have been bullied while online

The tradition of home as a refuge from bullies on the school playground is over. The Internet is the new playground, and there are no off hours. The popularity of Instant Messaging, e-mail, web pages, and blogging means kids are a target 24 hours per day, seven days a week. Even worse, i-SAFE found out 58 percent of kids have not told their parents or any adult about something mean or hurtful that had happened to them online.

i-SAFE offers a supplement to our

educational curriculum for grades four through eight. The lessons teach kids Cyber Citizenship, so they will not become bullies, and what to do in case they ever run into one online:

- Tell a trusted adult and keep telling them until they take action.
- Never open, read or respond to messages from cyber bullies.
- If it is school related, tell your school. All schools have bullying solutions.
- Do not erase the messages. They may be needed to take action.
- If bullied through chat or IM, the bully can often be blocked.
- If you are threatened with harm, call the police.

Above all, students are the cure to the Cyber Bullying epidemic. Through the education and empowerment provided by i-SAFE America they now have the tools to protect themselves. If you are not part of the i-SAFE family and feel unable to defend yourself, please contact us immediately at www.isafe.org.

By: Kevin Storr

i-SAFE Communications Director

The Effects of Cyber Bullying: Teen Takes His Life

Nearly a year ago, our 13-year-old son Ryan took his own life. For the first few days, we were nearly immobilized by shock and grief. It made absolutely no sense.

Ryan was an outwardly happy-go-lucky kid with two loving and supportive parents. He did not leave a note and his peers at school did not give the counselors and police any logical reasons for his action. It turned out the computer in Ryan's bedroom would be the key to unlocking most of the mystery.

I was very proud of the fact that my children grew up with computers from a very early age. To be safe, we often discussed the dangers of the Internet with them. They knew not to divulge any personal information or IM with anyone they did not know in

person. Periodic inspection of Ryan's computer and frequent discussions had assured me that Ryan was continuing to use the PC responsibly. Another rule was no online accounts with passwords kept secret from his parents. We felt this was a good deterrent to any inappropriate e-mailing or Instant Messaging.

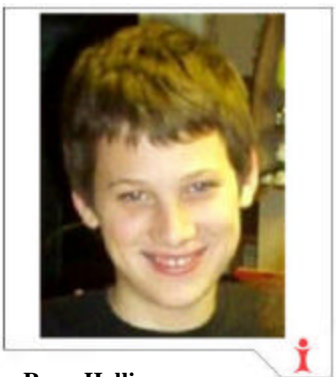
A week after his death, I logged onto Ryan's AOL IM account. I was quickly instant messaged from many of his startled peers. I immediately identified myself as Ryan's dad and that I was, on his account, trying to find clues to explain his death. It was during this very first session that two children told me the details of what happened at school in regards to bullying.

Special Interest Articles:

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Ryan Halligan.

**My son (Ryan):
“Tonight’s the night.
You are going to read
about in the paper
tomorrow.”**

**Other boy: “It’s about
time.”**

Cyber Bullying:

**58% of kids
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Source: i-SAFE America
Assessments

The Effects of Cyber Bullying: Teen Takes His Life

(Continued) Another child also tipped me off that there might be logged IM conversations on Ryan’s computer if he had installed a program called “DeadAIM.” I found the folder of conversations. Reading them was almost as difficult as losing my son. I found three months of IM conversations right up to just a few days before his death.

One very disturbing IM exchange was with another boy who was harassing Ryan in a very disgusting, sexual way. There were many other conversations that revealed Ryan’s view of life had taken a dramatic negative turn over the summer.

And there was one particular boy whose on-line advice and encouragement was anything but helpful to Ryan’s state of mind. This one IM exchange, just a few nights before his death, sums up the nature of this very unhealthy relationship:

My son: “Tonight’s the night. You are going to read about in the paper tomorrow.”

Other boy: “It’s about time.”

Ryan never mentioned this boy’s name. We learned later that Ryan hung out with him a few times in person but mostly online since he lives a few hours away. Had we met this child in person or had the chance to ask other parents about the boy, we would have never allowed him to associate with this kid.

Do I blame the computer and the Internet for my son’s death? No. Did I feel the computer in his room exacerbated a very unhealthy situation that started with schoolyard bullying? Yes. My son was dealing with a lot of hurt and anger caused by the bullying at his school.

The computer in his room provided an environment that reinforced his bad feelings. He continued to get harassed (cyber bullying) and tried to harass back online throughout the summer, which only made things much worse when he had to face the same kids at the start of the new school year.

Instead of turning to an adult, the computer made it too easy for him to turn to another peer who ended up being more harmful to Ryan’s emotional state of mind. Behind closed doors, Ryan was also able to more easily explore the option of suicide and find a website that showed him ways to do it.

I’ll never know for certain if he would still be alive today had the computer not been in his room, but I hope by sharing this, another parent pauses and reflects on our family’s tragedy. To learn more about Ryan and ways to prevent teenage suicide, visit:

<http://www.RyanPatrickHalligan.com>

**By: John Halligan
Parent of Ryan, 13, of VT**

i-SAFE Partners with Court TV

i-SAFE America and Court TV’s award-winning *Choices and Consequences* are combining forces in a continued effort to keep every student across the country safer online. The partnership is a natural fit between two groups whose missions are education and empowerment.

Court TV, check your local cable company listings for the channel, is the leader in forensic and investigative programming. They mix our favorite network shows from the past (like *Profiler* starring i-SAFE National Spokesperson Robert Davi), original shows (like *Forensic Files*), and in-depth coverage of the latest trials making headlines across the country.

On July 28th, i-SAFE traveled to New York City to be a part of the world premiere of *Al Roker Investigates*. In this *Court TV* original, the NBC *Today Show* weatherman takes a serious role in front of the camera. The first show, called

Katie.com, debuted July 29th on *Court TV* and focused on Internet predators and the story of Katie Tarbox.

At the age of 13, Katie met an online “friend” in a hotel room. Katie is telling her story now so what happened to her will not happen to anyone else. This i-SAFE recommended viewing re-airs on *Court TV* October 3rd at noon (both Eastern and Pacific).

i-SAFE America and *Court TV*’s *Choices and Consequences* are working together on many Internet safety issues besides online predators. Check for updates in the newsletter and in the news in general to see our progress in the effort to make the Internet a safer place. In the meantime, you know our website, theirs is www.courttv.com/choices

**By: Kevin Storr
i-SAFE Communications Director**



Henry Schleiff, “Court TV” Chairman and CEO; Kevin Storr, i-SAFE Director of Communications; Al Roker, host of “Al Roker Investigates.”

“The i-SAFE curriculum is keeping up with emerging Internet trends by offering *new* supplemental teaching and learning activities for the 2004-05 school year.”

Attention All of You Artists Out There!
Be a part of the i-SAFE national mouse pad design competition starting September 1, 2004. The winning student will have his/her graphic design reproduced on actual mouse pads for his/her entire class (40 total). Look [here](#) for more details!



Join the DRiVE Campaign and become a Student Mentor!

i-SAFE Welcomes Back Educators Across the Country

Welcome back! As a former New York City public school teacher, I know first-hand all the tasks educators face on a daily basis. Education used to mean teaching, reading, writing, and mathematics. Today's educators are expected to do that and so much more.

Each and every time I travel to conduct an i-SAFE event, the dedication of the teachers I meet never fails to impress me. Teachers give hours of their own time to learn about our program and how it can help them keep their students safe.

So let's take a look at what's ahead for this school year. Taught across all 50 states, and around the world by the Department of Defense Schools, the i-SAFE curriculum is keeping up with emerging Internet trends by offering *new* supplemental teaching and learning activities for the 2004-05 school year.

These new lesson plans address topics on Intellectual property for grades 3 and 4, integrated literacy for grades 5-8, and homeland security for grades 7 and 8. New optional PowerPoint® presentations to accompany all lessons in grades 5-8 are included on the grades 5-8 curriculum

CD, as well as student activity pages in Spanish for bilingual classes.

As a reminder, the assessment process has been streamlined for this school year. You will no longer be asked to administer pre- and post-assessments for each lesson or webcast. Instead, we are only requesting that your students complete one (1) pre-curriculum assessment, one (1) post-curriculum assessment taken after you have completed all of the lessons/webcasts planned, and one (1) delayed assessment taken three to six weeks after the completion of the program. This change, in large part, was in response to your suggestions on how to allow for more time in instruction, discussion, and exercises on this critical topic.

So welcome back (as if you ever left)! Thank you for your incredible dedication. We look forward to a productive and safe new school year and encourage all i-SAFE instructors to order their new curriculum CDs today!

**By: Jennie Lintz
and the i-SAFE Education Team**

i-SAFE Asks: What DRiVEs You?

Welcome back to school!! The Youth Empowerment Team at i-SAFE is proud to introduce the **DRiVE** Campaign, a new Internet safety campaign geared to empower and motivate students to become actively involved in making the Internet a safer place by speaking out, raising awareness, and educating others about the dangers on the Information Superhighway.

The **DRiVE** Campaign is designed for students and teachers who embrace the belief that the first line of defense against online dangers is Internet safety education and awareness. As part of the **DRiVE** Campaign, the i-SAFE Youth Empowerment (YE) Team is excited to work with Student Mentors across the country who are taking action and spreading the message about the dangers lurking online.

Based on the i-SAFE Curriculum, the

Student Mentor Program serves as a bridge to expand the Internet safety information to other students and also into the community. With the i-SAFE knowledge, your students will be given the keys to the cyber car. It's now time that they **DRiVE**.

The i-SAFE YE Team has been working diligently all summer to launch new materials and programs to support the new **DRiVE** Campaign. Order the new material and learn how to drive defensively on Hwy 411.

Join the **DRiVE** Campaign and start a Student Mentor program in your school. To ask questions for order materials, visit outreach@isafe.org. To join the Student Mentor program visit mentors@isafe.org.

**By: Lisa Cunningham
i-SAFE Youth Empowerment**



Internet Safety

Tip of the Month

Ask your children if they have been the victim of a bully on the playground and/or the new playground—The Internet.

Let them know they have someone to turn to for help.



As part of the i-Shield program, i-SAFE is working with Attorneys General to use the bully pulpit of their offices to raise awareness about Internet safety and bring the i-SAFE curriculum to classrooms in their states.

i-Parent Campaign creates Parent Board

Last month's i-SAFE Times announced the launch of the national i-Parent Campaign, created to help bridge the digital divide between parents and children.

This month we'll talk about i-Parent Boards—community Internet safety advocacy groups—that are the backbone of the i-Parent Campaign. i-Parent Boards are created within existing parent-teacher organizations, or community-based organizations, or are developed independently. By working as a team, parents and other family advocates generate long-term, community-wide awareness.

i-Parent Boards may make presentations to other parents or community groups and organize community events to get the word out about the need for Internet safety. The requirement for serving on an i-Parent Board is to simply have the desire to advocate for Internet safety.

The i-Parent Campaign empowers Internet safety advocates across the country to empower families. In a coming issue, we'll describe how an i-Parent Board empowers youth to stay out of harm's way and raise parent awareness of Internet safety in a community.

By: Paul O'Sullivan
i-Parent Campaign Manager

Operation i-Shield is a Go!!!

The key to fighting Internet crimes is educating our children to be safer online, and that is why i-SAFE America seeks to establish partnerships with elected officials community leaders, educators, law enforcement officials, parents, and children about the dangers the Internet presents and the need for a coordinated Internet safety education program.

A key partner in this effort is the nation's 56 Attorneys General in the U.S. states, territories and commonwealths. These mostly elected officials serve as their respective states' chief law enforcement officer, and they have the responsibility to both protect the public and to work to prevent crime.

i-SAFE has established a program

specifically for Attorneys General called *Operation i-Shield*. As part of the i-Shield program, i-SAFE is working with Attorneys General to utilize their offices to raise awareness about Internet safety and bring the i-SAFE curriculum to classrooms in their states.

Too often law enforcement officials like Attorneys General are involved in Internet crime issues after a crime has been committed. *Operation i-Shield* is designed to assist them in their efforts to prevent crimes. Any Attorneys General office that would like more information about this program can contact attorneygeneral@isafe.org.

By: Kent Gates
i-SAFE Town Hall Manager

The Dedication of Our Nation's Law Enforcement

I was a police officer for 23 years prior to joining i-SAFE, but this is the first NASRO (National Association of Student Resource Officers) Conference that I'd attended.

NASRO members, which include not just School Resource Officers (law enforcement personnel assigned to schools), but other law enforcement professionals, educators, private security, and other professionals, truly appear to be part of a family that have dedicated themselves to America's youth.

I heard stories of how many pass up promotions or transfers to stay at their schools, attend training sessions at their own expense, and spend personal time attending school functions or other special events in order to continue to support the kids and schools they represent.

The dedication showed in all of the conference's 1100 participants. i-SAFE

conducted five PDP sessions and certified quite a few new Program Leaders and Classroom Instructors.

We were only able to do this with the assistance of our law enforcement consultants, Chris Duque, a detective at the Honolulu PD, and Dave Andrews, a Deputy at the Summit County Sheriffs Department in Ohio.

After speaking with many of the officers and deputies from across the country, it is plain to see that i-SAFE is a program that is being embraced and implemented by school districts and law enforcement agencies all over the nation. It is going to be another very busy school year for some truly dedicated professionals. A big thanks to all of you.

By: Timothy Lorenzen
i-SAFE Law Enforcement

News Flash!

Dennis Shaw (right), i-SAFE COO presents Congressman Pomeroy with plaque in Washington D.C. on June 24, 2004. Congressman Earl Pomeroy (ND-At Large) was named an Ambassador of i-SAFE America in recognition of his commitment to educating youth on Internet safety in North Dakota and throughout the nation.


We welcome your input!

If you would like to submit an article for the newsletter or tell us your story, please contact us at:

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We're on the Web! *See us at:* 

www.isafe.org

i-SAFE AMERICA

Upcoming i-SAFE Events—Where the Action Is!!!

SEPTEMBER EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

Sept. 1st: PDP in Chugiak, AK

Sept. 1st: PDP in Fall River, MA

Sept. 1st: PDP in Columbia, MD

Sept. 1st: PDP in Ladd, IL

Sept. 1st: PDP & i-Parent

Program in Wilmington, DE

Sept. 1st: PDP in Warren, NJ

Sept. 1st: PDP in Hamburg, PA

Sept. 3rd: PDP in Chicago, IL

Sept. 3rd: PDP in Pukalani, HI

Sept. 7th: PDP in Arkadelphia, AR

Sept. 8th: PDP in Plumerville, AR

Sept. 8th: PDP in New London, IA

Sept. 8th: i-Parent Program in Avondale, AZ

Sept. 9th: PDP in Pine Bluff, AR

Sept. 9th: i-Parent Program in Overland Park, KS

Sept. 10th: PDP in Louisville, KY

Sept. 10th: PDP in Beebe, AR

Sept. 11th: PDP in West Warwick, RI

Sept. 11th: PDP in Helena, AL

Sept. 13th: PDP in Birmingham, AL

Sept. 14th: PDP in Owensboro, KY

Sept. 15th: PDP in Bowling Green, KY

Sept. 15th: PDP in Anchorage, AK

Sept. 15th: PDP in Chicago, IL

Sept. 15th: i-Parent Program in Fall River, MA

Sept. 15th: PDP in Carbondale, IL

Sept. 15th: i-Parent Program in Lincoln, NE

Sept. 16th: PDP in Orange County, CA

Sept. 17th: PDP in St. Clair Shores, MI

Sept. 17th: PDP in Upper Saddle River, NJ

Sept. 18th: i-Parent Program in Louisville, KY

Sept. 20th: PDP in La Luz, NM

Sept. 21st: PDP in W. Seneca, NY

Sept. 21st: i-Parent Program in Louisville, KY

Sept. 22nd: THM in Anchorage, AK

Sept. 22nd: PDP in Glasgow, KY

Sept. 22nd: PDP in Orlando, FL

Sept. 22nd: PDP in Palmer, AK

Sept. 22nd: PDP in Cape

Girardeau, MO

Sept. 23rd: PDP in Orlando, FL

Sept. 23rd: PDP in Meriden, CT

Sept. 27th: PDP in Bronx, NY

Sept. 27th: PDP in Minot, ND

i-SAFE TERMS FOR EVENTS

CLM: Community Leaders Meeting

THM: Town Hall Meeting

EDU: Education Event, Meeting, or Conference

OUT: Outreach Event, Meeting, or Conference

LAUNCH: i-SAFE curriculum in classrooms or school assembly

PDP: Professional Development Program

i-Parent Program: Parent Internet

Advocacy Campaign Meeting

PTG: Parent Teacher Group

Meeting/ Parent Night

About Our Organization...



MISSION: i-SAFE is a non-profit foundation whose mission is to educate and empower youth to safely and responsibly take control of their Internet experience.

GOAL: The i-SAFE program provides students with the awareness and knowledge they need in order to recognize and avoid dangerous, destructive, or unlawful online behavior and to respond appropriately.

i-SAFE is dedicated to: 1) implementing a standardized Internet safety education program throughout the nation that provides kids and teens with essential tools to reduce the risk of their being victimized while engaged in activities via the Internet; and 2) launching an Outreach Campaign that empowers students to take control of their online experiences and make educated, informed, and knowledgeable decisions as they actively engage in cyber activities.

A Special Thanks from *The i-SAFE Times Staff*

Bronwen Matthews, Editor-in-chief; Jana Malkan, Editor; Eric Fairbanks, Editor; Teri Schroeder, i-SAFE President; Jonathan King, Outreach Director; Lee Taylor, Education Director; Paul Olson, Graphic Design, and contributing writers: John Halligan, Kent Gates, Kevin Storr, Paul O'Sullivan, Lisa Cunningham, Jennie Lintz, Carolyn Walpole, and Tim Lorenzen.