

## Faculty Insider ~The Diary of Today's World

### Table of Contents

Faculty Insider.....	1
Tech Tip.....	2
In Your School.....	2
Site Spotlight.....	3
Ask an Expert.....	3
In Action.....	3
Did You Know?.....	4
The Power of One.....	5
NAC Corner.....	5

### ATTENTION EDUCATORS:

Each *i-EDUCATOR Times* will contain an **i-SAFE Curriculum Bonus**. This is material you can't find anywhere else. Check it out on **page 6**. Enjoy!



*"Upon our children—how they are taught—rests the fate or fortune of tomorrow's world."*

~ B.C. Forbes,  
founder of Forbes magazine

Blogging? What's that? Haven't heard the term? Well listen up, because chances are most of your students have blogs. Blogs are online journals. Think of your old book diary with a suitcase key lock, except forget the lock and key—blogs are open for the world to search, find, and read!

One neat component of blogs is that they're interactive. Once you write and post, other readers are open to comment on what you have posted. Do you see the potential for danger here? Many students give little consideration to the consequences of their online diaries. They don't realize bullies, predators, stalkers, and more could potentially read it.

Don't let the potential dangers scare you off, though. Many educators are finding blogs useful in the classroom. It's a good way to get students writing and interacting. Blogs can be password-protected to deny access to outsiders. They can be used to journal, comment on assignments, as a homework helpline, to respond to reading, and more. The potential is unlimited, and many students find it fun!

Here are some tips to share with your students about starting a personal blog:


- **Password-protect your blog.** Make sure that only those people parents or teachers permit know your password.
- **Do not include personal information.** Leave out all descriptive details (places you hang out, malls, etc.) from your blog.
- **Do not complete a profile.** Do not include name, address, phone number, school, zip code, e-mail address, or screen name in your blog. This is exactly the kind of information a predator is looking for—you might as well give them a map directly to you!
- **Do not include your friends' personal information.** Doing so would be just like telling a predator, "I'm not interested in speaking with you, but my best friend Chelsea would be more than happy to."
- **Pretend that you are a predator.** Read your writing, and see if you can



pick out details that lead to revealing personal information about you. If you come across anything objectionable, change it so it is less identifying to the unknown and potentially dangerous reader.

- **Do not include photos of yourself or others in your blog.** It's obvious, but some students still do not know this.

Use this as a guide, and give blogs a shot in your classroom. Just make sure to set up some ground rules first to establish safety. Also, be sure to check your schools acceptable-use policy and get parental permission first.

For more information and to get your students on the right track, take time to do our blogging lesson plan in your class to reinforce safe blogging. In addition, there are teacher resources available on blogging, such as a *Dig Deeper* newsletter that can be found at [www.isafe.org](http://www.isafe.org) in the "Educators' Activities/Resources pages." 

## NAC Tracks

Do you have a class blog?

Yes or No

Vote here

## Tech Tip ~Internet Search Engines

**Q**: Hello, our school district uses Macintosh computers, and our IT department would like us to use the Safari web browser when accessing web pages. We have had sporadic problems when using your Web site. Why does this happen with Safari and not Internet Explorer, which I use at home?


**A**: We are sorry to hear that you are having problems accessing our Web site. Our IT department works very hard to ensure that our Web sites are compatible with all current web browsers available. Here are a few things you can try:

1. Ensure that you are using the latest version of Safari. For Panther OS X, it is version 1.2; for Tiger OS X, it is version 2.0. You can also check for updates and patches at <http://www.apple.com/safari/download/>. The majority of the problems we've received have to do with earlier versions of Safari. Updating to the current version should resolve your issues.

2. Check your scroll bars. Some of the applications on our Web sites open in new browser windows. Safari interprets our style sheet differently than other browsers, and sometimes the pop-up windows are smaller than the content it includes. For instance, our implementation plan is often cut off in the Safari pop-up window. You can still fill out the form by using the "Tab" key or the arrow keys to navigate the window. This should allow you to complete the form.

3. If you are having the same problem again and again, try using Mozilla's Firefox browser (<http://www.mozilla.com/firefox/all.html>) to see if the problem can be duplicated. If it can, there may be a larger issue preventing you from using our Web sites.



When all else fails, drop us a line; we'd like to help. You can reach us by using the "Contact Us" link on our Web site ([https://auth.isafe.org/contact/contact\\_form.php](https://auth.isafe.org/contact/contact_form.php)) or by sending an e-mail to [webmaster@isafe.org](mailto:webmaster@isafe.org). When contacting us, please let us know what browser and version you are using, your computer specs (CPU, Memory, PC, or MAC), and the type of Internet connection you are using. This will help us to better resolve your issue. 

## In Your School

Everyday, many i-SAFE America events are going on across the country. We've made it easy for you to get involved and help spread the message of Internet safety to your peers and community. Simply check out our "Calendar of Events," located at [http://www.isafe.org/channels/sub.php?ch=ai&sub\\_id=3](http://www.isafe.org/channels/sub.php?ch=ai&sub_id=3), to find an event near you.

Interested in starting your own blog, maintaining one for your classroom, or requiring one as a class assignment? Make sure you choose a blog engine that will allow you to password-protect your blog so the general public can't see it. This is especially important if students are posting blogs. This way you can ensure that they are safe and only their classmates can read their blogs.

One site we found that offers password-protection on blogs is [www.wordpress.org](http://www.wordpress.org). It is a free blog engine that could be modified for educational purposes. There are other blogging engines out there specifically designed for education also, but many require small fees. Take a look and see if it is something *you* can use.



## Ask an Expert



Q

Dear i-SAFE:

Something has come up, and I need to change the date of an already-scheduled event.

What can I do?

Bo, New Mexico


A

Hello Bo:

Things happen; it's a part of life. Here at i-SAFE America, we strive to make it as easy as possible to change the dates of your events when you need to. You may change your event date by following these simple steps:

- Log on to your i-SAFE account at [www.isafe.org](http://www.isafe.org).
- On the "My Info" page, you will see "Upcoming Events." Click on the "View or Edit Event" button.
  - o On this page, you may change the date or cancel if needed.
  - o You will also notice that you can change the event site, address, or any other pertinent information pertaining to your event.
- Once you have made your changes, select "Update Data."
  - o The nice thing about this feature is that it will notify anyone who has registered for your event of the change(s).

**Two other things you need to know:** 1) If you need to reschedule your event, but the date is still pending, we ask that you cancel it and submit another implementation plan for the event at a later date. 2) If you are doing a Classroom Instruction Plan with your students, it is OK if you do not start on the exact date. However, if you find that months are going by and you still have not implemented your Classroom Instruction, please e-mail your cancellation to [onlineip@isafe.org](mailto:onlineip@isafe.org).

If you have a question for i-SAFE, e-mail us at [editor@isafe.org](mailto:editor@isafe.org). Thanks for reading! 

## In Action ~ The Subtlety of Educating

I teach video communications classes, and I know what you're thinking: "What the heck does that have to do with Internet safety?" Well, if you teach it right, it's a great way to subtly educate and inform.

I required my advanced class to create an i-SAFE public-service announcement (PSA). Basically, they had to write, shoot, and edit a 30-second commercial on Internet safety. Researching, they learned about the many dangers lurking online, including cyber predators and bullies. They even learned about a subject close to the heart of a profession they may choose as a career—protection of intellectual property!

In the end, they settled on cyber predators. They created a hilarious script for a skit about a student chatting online with a stranger. I won't spoil the ending for you, but I will tell you that in the end, my students could recite how to be safe online in their sleep.

The bottom line: Don't be scared to teach your kids Internet safety away from the computer! There are too many creative and different—but more importantly fun—ways to teach online safety. Find them. Do them. And enjoy!

Walter Fritz  
Patch American High School  
Stuttgart, Germany



## Did You Know?

### NEW TOOL FOR STUDENTS

Students applying for entrance to top colleges and universities are bolstering their resumes with service projects. The upper echelon of kids in your school now has a new opportunity—the i-MENTOR Training Network, which includes free training and material without leaving the computer.

To see if this online learning is right for your students, simply follow these instructions:

1. Log on to <http://ilearn.isafe.org>.
2. In the upper right-hand corner, log in using:
  - a. username: jdoe
  - b. password: 123456
3. Click “Return to i-LEARN.”
4. Click on whatever video interests you—or watch them all!

By watching these videos, students become certified to teach i-SAFE to peers, parents, community leaders—anybody who will listen. There is even a video to help them choose the program that is right for them.

So what are you waiting for? Check out the i-MENTOR Training Network, or, better yet, have your students check it out.

*\*Editor’s Note: The username and password provided are only for demonstration. For a student to be certified, he or she must create an account with i-SAFE.*



### LA RED SEGURIDAD EN ESPAÑOL

As of 1998, the United States has the fifth largest Hispanic population in the world—around 30 million. We know they’re online, and we know they need Internet safety just like everyone else around the world.

For years, i-SAFE has offered activity pages in Spanish for students in grades 5 through 8. Not only has this been a huge success, but the demand has grown in other grades. To keep up with i-SAFE users, our curriculum experts have converted ALL activity pages for K through 8 into Spanish!

That’s right: Every Hispanic student below the high school level now has the option to work on Internet safety in their native language. Think about it: Nobody falls behind, everybody understands, and the World Wide Web is a safer place to visit for all.

The material is available free on our Curriculum CDs as well as on the “Educators” Activity/Resources Web page at [www.isafe.org](http://www.isafe.org). Contact us at [teachers@isafe.org](mailto:teachers@isafe.org) with questions.

### DON’T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU CLICK

So you’re reading your favorite blog, and you see a cool link to a related product. How awesome that someone would make it easy for you to find what you need!! Or should we say, how spamtastic that it would appear at the right place at the right time.

That’s right. Spammers are adding comments to legitimate blogs to lure readers to commercial sites. This newest version of spam is called a “splog” or “splogging.” But it’s not limited to legitimate blogs—bogus sites are popping up all the time that look like legit blogs. Some reports say as many as 60 percent of blogs on Google’s free Blogger.com are “splogs.”

The moral of the story: Don’t believe everything you click.



## The Power of One



### Hate Sites

When you wander around the World Wide Web, it can be intimidating, especially with the hate sites that exist. I stumbled upon one, and it made me wonder how many were out there. *The Hate Directory* is “. . . an aid in identifying and tracking the proliferation of hate oriented use of the Internet. . . .” (It can be found at <http://www.bcpl.net/~rfrankli/hatedir.htm>.) After two pages of explanation, there are about 120 pages of hate sites and hate groups, and only one page of sites dedicated to “Combating Hate on the Net.”

A hate site is a place where people can express themselves. Though the content may be hateful and negative to others, these Web sites are protected by the First Amendment. Some examples of groups that have hate sites include Black Separatists, the Ku Klux Klan, Neo-Nazis, Racist Skinheads, Christian Identity, and Neo-Confederates.

Remember, there are many solutions to these problems. i-SAFE America creates awareness about Internet safety, including hate sites, and is taking an active role in educating communities. The organization has influenced me and

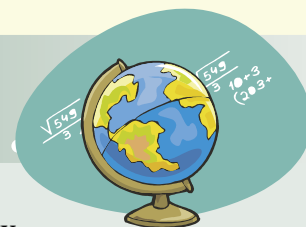
many other young adults to be proactive.

Another solution is to create an antihate Web site (remember the lonely page in *The Hate Directory*). By making a Web site like this, you are attempting to fight off the ones that create and promote hate. Ignoring these sites will not make them go away. People should discuss hate sites to learn about all that is out there on the World Wide Web.

Gabby, Point Loma, CA



## NAC Corner—New Questions Debut!



To keep up with the ever-changing world of technology, the National Assessment Center (NAC) makes significant changes to i-SAFE's preassessment questions\*. In 2006, we delve into blogs, personal Web sites, adult Web sites, youth attraction, cell phone use/abuse, and stalking, etc.

Examples for grades 5 through 12:

- Have you ever instant-messaged late at night when your parents thought you were asleep?
- Do you post personal information on your blog?
- Who can access your blog?
- Do you have a personal web page (MySpace, Facebook, Xanga, etc.)?
- Do alcoholic drink company Web sites influence your decision to drink?
- Have you ever visited gambling Web sites?
- Have you ever cheated on a test at school using your cell phone?

During the past 2 1/2 years, nearly a quarter of a million students in grades K through 12 have taken our assessments. The data is invaluable in helping i-SAFE focus on the most critical issues facing youth online. And when the new results are in, you will be the first to see them in the *i-EDUCATOR Times* and in our curriculum.

\*Editor's Note: Assessments are taken as part of the curriculum and are accessed by students using the i-SAFE provided school ID. If you do not have one, please contact us at [education@isafe.org](mailto:education@isafe.org). Changes do not apply to DoDEA schools.