

Faculty Insider — Free 'Net Safety Education

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Attention Educators:

Each *i-EDUCATOR Times* will contain an i-SAFE Curriculum Bonus. Check it out on page 6. Enjoy!



*“The mediocre teacher tells.
The good teacher explains. The
superior teacher demonstrates.
The great teacher inspires.”*

~ William Arthur Ward/founder

Thanks to a growing number of educators, i-SAFE has educated more than one million students this school year! That is almost double the number of students educated on Internet safety last year. As this rapid growth continues, we find better ways to expand our program and reach you and your peers.

We want all educators, administrators, and school districts to be able to implement the i-SAFE program. In an effort to continue expansion, the i-SAFE Professional Development Program (PDP) is now available three different ways. But be assured that whatever way you choose, the quality and the content remain the same, and you are eligible for our free online material and will be certified to train others once you complete the PDP.

1. Premier PDP

This is the original training method. It is a four-hour scripted PowerPoint presentation with embedded videos presented by an i-SAFE certified trainer.

2. Premier PDP Video

This is the full PDP via DVD video format that can be presented to a group of participants. For many districts, this is the best option to prepare trainers.

3. i-LEARN Online

The third option is i-LEARN Online. At <http://ilearn.isafe.org>, individuals can go through the modular video training at their own pace. Watch some now, watch others later. Play, pause, rewind, and rewatch—the choice is yours.

For many school districts, the i-LEARN Online option is growing in popularity. As districts face budget cuts, time constraints, and endless outside demands, the chance to provide their educators an opportunity to learn online as their schedule permits is exactly what they need. For this reason, i-SAFE has created an easy way for districts to get the message to their staffs—and you guessed it, it's available online.

i-SAFE has designed a web banner exclusively for a school district's home



page. Think about it: Instead of an in-service day, hiring substitute teachers, and preparing lesson plans, they simply go to the district home page and link to i-LEARN Online. Two clicks, and they are there. A few more, and they will be trained to educate your students on the safe and responsible use of the Internet. So what are you waiting for? Check out <http://ilearn.isafe.org/toolkit/index.php> and post the i-LEARN Online banner today. Your students are worth it.

NAC Tracks

How do you prefer to learn material?

Face to face

Online

Vote here




Tech Tip — Missing Web Content

Q: *Can you help me please. When using the features on your Web site, i-LEARN Online, the “Calendar of Events,” or the assessments, I can’t see all the content. Why does this happen, and what can I do to fix it?*

A: Although there could be several reasons why a web page does not display correctly, the most common reason is related to screen resolution settings. Some of the pages in our system do have quite a bit of content on them, and depending on your screen resolution, you may have to do a lot of scrolling to see it all. Our webmaster has a few helpful hints to make your visit to our site more enjoyable.


First, check your screen resolution settings. The i-SAFE Web site is best viewed at 1024 by 768 pixels. This resolu-

tion will allow you to see most of the page content with minimal scrolling. On a Microsoft Windows PC, it is easy to change this setting by going to your control panel, selecting “Display,” and clicking “Settings.” You can then use the slider to adjust your screen resolution. On a Macintosh PC, this is controlled through the system preferences tool under “Display.”


Second, make sure that your web browser window is maximized. This will let your web browser use all the area of your desktop again, cutting down on the need to scroll. This is very easy to do: On a Windows PC, right click on the title bar of your web browser, and choose “Maximize.” On a Mac, just click on the green “+” button in your web browser window. 

Get Involved

The curriculum team here at i-SAFE is ALWAYS open to fresh ideas, topics, or suggestions for revisions. One of our best sources of ideas is you, the educator in the field that uses the i-SAFE curriculum. When you write, e-mail, or phone, we take note of all you have to say. We make a point to listen to the issues you face in your classroom and attempt to tackle them. With that in mind, please take notes and offer suggestions to help us make our curriculum your curriculum.

The best way to offer suggestions, notes for revision, new topics, etc., is to e-mail us at teachers@isafe.org. Feel free to provide other positive feedback—we love to hear that, too! 



Membership in the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) is for leaders and potential leaders in educational technology. Its National Educational Technology Standards (NETS) are recognized worldwide as the standard for technology education. But more so than setting high standards, ISTE is here to provide members with information, networking opportunities, and guidance in the ever-changing world of the Internet. Check out www.iste.org to see what it can do for you. 

Site Spotlight

In Your School




Everyday, many i-SAFE Inc. 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, to find an event near you.



Ask an Expert



Q *I am conducting a Professional Development Program. What is the best way to have my attendees register?*

A There is nothing like the satisfaction that comes with facilitating an i-SAFE event like a Professional Development Program (PDP). You have decided to impart valuable information to your educational community and arm it with the tools needed to help protect children online. Once you have submitted your Implementation Plan (IP), your event will be listed on the i-SAFE “Calendar of Events” at www.isafe.org. Encourage your attendees to register online via the “Calendar of Events” to automatically be certified. Your event will remain on the calendar for 10 days after the scheduled event date; so even after the event, there is time for participants to register. As the facilitator, you can view attendance via your “My Info” page under the “Upcoming Events” section. It is here that you can see who has registered for your event. This is a useful tool to help manage your event and ensure everyone is registered, especially if you are trying to ensure that your teachers are certified. Please note: You do not need to turn in attendance forms or a data transfer form if your participants have registered online. Online registering is the preferred method for attendance not only for PDPs, but for i-PARENT Programs, too, as it provides participants with immediate access to i-SAFE materials following the event. 



In Action — Thanks to a School

In November, I received a call from the guidance counselor at my daughter’s school. My daughter was in her office and had told the counselor she was worried about a friend who was cutting (kids injure themselves on purpose by cutting their body until they bleed) himself and had some family things he was dealing with. The counselor asked all the right questions, and my daughter said she’d been cutting herself, too.

I didn’t believe this. I thought the boy was playing with her emotions, and she was saying it just to say it. I went to the school and sat with my daughter and the counselor to see if she would recant. Instead, she said she did cut, and it had been two months since the last time. I still didn’t believe her.

When we got home, we sat and talked. She told me she didn’t know why she did it—it was like an addiction that she couldn’t stop. I asked her to show me the places on her body where she’d been cutting, because I still could not believe it to be true. To my COMPLETE SHOCK, each shoulder had gashes at least two inches long and ½-inch wide. Her right leg had several gashes where it looked like skin was removed. I was sick—literally.

My daughter is doing much better these days, and so am I. I don’t know what would have happened if my daughter had not opened up at school, and I am grateful for her counselor’s help.

Cindy, Memphis


(To see Cindy’s full story, check out the i-PARENT Times March 2006 issue.)

Did You Know?

COPYRIGHT AWARENESS WEEK

March 6 through 10 has been named national Copyright Awareness Week. The aim of this week is to encourage educators to conduct classes on intellectual-property protection. We hope you will choose a day that week or this month to work with your students on this topic.

Everybody uses something that is copyrighted each day, if not each hour. Think about it: Books, films, music, photographs, and art name a few. Copyrighted material is vital to our society, and the protection of it is imperative for future generations who will make a living in those forms.

Of course, now is a good time to remind you that i-SAFE provides age-appropriate curriculum on all topics concerning intellectual property beginning with the third grade. Whether it is plagiarism or illegal downloading, third grade or seniors, there is no better time than now to educate your students. For more information on how to receive i-SAFE curriculum free online, e-mail us at teachers@isafe.org. 




DRIVING THE MESSAGE WITH VIDEO

The X-BLOCK article in this section briefly describes i-DRiVE TV as “high-tech television for students, by students.” In other words, the latest i-SAFE endeavor is asking students to be part of the show as a “digital correspondent.”

i-DRiVE TV is a series of half-hour shows the i-SAFE team is working on. The crew will take students around the world through video. Each episode will tell the story of one area and what life is like for their students. It will incorporate the latest technology happenings and mix in lessons on the safe and responsible use of the Internet.

So where do the students come in? Well, digital correspondents will work as news reporters on their campuses covering the latest trends, gadgets, and cyber stories affecting them and their classmates. Once the story is told through video, correspondents will send the video to i-SAFE to be part of an i-DRiVE TV episode.


Make sure your students know they have a chance to be on a TV show that can be seen around the world. Make sure media educators know their students have an opportunity like no other. Send them to <http://xblock.isafe.org/idrive.php> for details on submitting a video and for the latest i-SAFE vodcast. 

X-BLOCK MARKS THE SPOT

Have you heard? There’s a new place on the Web for kids and teens to hang out, learn about cyber safety, and share their online experiences with others. The recently created X-BLOCK is designed for youth to make the cyber world their world.

The new Web site is a multimedia experience that will redefine your kids’ attitudes on “safe” sites. X-BLOCK is an interactive site with six main areas:

- i-DRiVE TV – high-tech television for students, by students
- chat room – monitored; education provided by i-SAFE staff
- the 411 – latest and greatest news and programs available
- contests – this month: a filmmaker contest
- i-MENTORS – for the student who wants to lead
- i-MENTOR Training Network – online certification with videos

So as you take your youth on a tour of the World Wide Web, visit X-BLOCK (<http://xblock.isafe.org>), and help them make a difference in your community today. 

The Power of One

The Importance of Community Meetings




Community meetings are great tools that are often overlooked. They can be very important to a community by giving its people a chance to speak their minds on the issues that concern them. The meetings are a safe, peaceful way to debate controversial issues. A community meeting can also reach many more people than just the people who attend the meeting.

Many people really have little impact on the decisions made in their communities. Without community meetings, there would be no easy way to speak directly to the decision makers. During a community meeting, the residents of the community have a chance to express their feelings in front of city officials and the rest of the community. People can try to defend their side of an argument to stop something they feel is wrong. For example, if someone buys land in the

community and wants to build an apartment complex, some residents may be unhappy. If the community held a meeting, residents could openly discuss options while informing city officials how strongly they feel about the topic.

A community meeting is a safe place for residents to express how they truly feel. They go into the meeting knowing that they are going to hear things they might not want to hear. And the meeting wouldn't always have to be for negative debates, either.

Community meetings don't just reach the people who attend them. Residents who attend could spread the word to others. Television and radio stations could attend the meeting and then discuss what happened the next day on their shows.

Community meetings are a great way for the people to communicate and an organized way for people to present arguments to decision makers. They are in safe, open environments that can reach many people. These meetings are important and should be exercised more often. 

NAC Corner—Cyber Bullying




There is a considerable amount of discussion lately about cyber (online) bullying. Recognizing the harmful nature of bullying in general, we at times fail to acknowledge the fundamental downsides of online communication. What is the risk?

The point not emphasized enough is the fact that once something is communicated via the Internet, it can be in Cyberspace forever. Whether it is a compliment, a picture, harmless gossip about the cute new boy in class, a joke being shared with a friend, or something negative (gossip or angry comments), once the communication is sent or posted, it likely will be stored somewhere out of the creator's control. It can be edited, forwarded and sent anywhere in the world.

In face-to-face communications, we are able to see body

language. Too often with online communications, a joke is perceived as angry, levels of concern may be taken lightly, or confidentiality not understood. The fact that the recipient can now edit and forward the communication to anyone leaves the sender vulnerable to future abuse and ridicule. When it comes to pictures that our youth post online, the problem becomes even worse. Pictures attached to e-mails or posted on web pages can be altered and cause pain and embarrassment.

If you have any doubt that cyber bullying can happen in your area, think about this: From a survey completed in May 2005, 5,000 students across the United States were asked whether they had ever used the Internet to say bad things (gossip) about someone else to a friend. **Twenty-five percent said yes.** In that same group, **24 percent** had used Internet communications to say something hurtful to someone with whom they were angry. Almost **11 percent** had said something on the Internet that would scare, embarrass, or anger someone else. In most, if not all, cases, we can assume that there was no thought given to the permanent nature of the communication. 

Curriculum Bonus



Online communities like MySpace and Facebook are changing the way people define themselves and social networking. What you *must* realize is that these communities come with both benefits and dangers. Check out this month's "Curriculum Bonus" at www.isafe.org/bonus to get the 411 on social networking.



Team Up with i-SAFE

Currently, i-SAFE has reached more than one million students with Internet safety information. By providing free materials, programs, and educational videos, students are learning how to make positive choices when challenged with today's technology. Not only are students learning to protect themselves against predators, they are also learning how to make decisions regarding intellectual property, identity theft, and more.

i-SAFE strives to provide educators, schools, and students with the most current information regarding the issues youth face today on the Internet. In order to bring our programs and materials to your school and community, we rely upon donations.

We would be grateful if you, or perhaps someone you know, could assist i-SAFE in reaching as many children as possible. Since i-SAFE is a 501(c)(3) corporation, your donations are fully tax deductible.

To donate, you can e-mail us at donations@isafe.org or go to http://www.isafe.org/channels/sub.php?ch=gi&sub_id=2.

This series of i-SAFE newsletters also includes the *i-PARENT Times* and *Kewl Timez* (for students). We encourage you to read the others and ask you to use the main article to initiate discussion and action with students and the community.

You Make the Difference

We value your input. As you work with our materials to educate young people, we'd like to know if there is anything you'd like to see, or suggest we implement. What works well for you and your students? Do you have any new ideas on how to reach students?

We're also always looking for stories from experienced educators to share in our newsletters. These stories are important for i-SAFE staff to better know you through your goals and experience. By working together, we can help inspire a new generation to use the Internet safely, wisely, and ethically. Together, let us teach this generation how to positively use technology.

Please take a few moments to share by e-mailing editor@isafe.org, mail comments to:

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