

Faculty Insider — *Preparing Students for Adulthood*

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Attention Educators:

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



*“A good teacher is like a candle
—it consumes itself to light the
way for others.”*
~ Anonymous

A new survey says service learning has a major impact on the transition from a child to an adult. Simply put, service learning requires students to serve their community. The survey, conducted by Harris Interactive for the National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC), will be released in its entirety at the 17th Annual National Service-Learning Conference.

“I think people will be very surprised by the numbers,” says NYLC President and CEO Jim Kielsmeier. “I was surprised. We’ve long believed that service learning helps prepare young people for the transition to adulthood, but the decisiveness of the results exceeded our expectations.”

i-SAFE, like Kielsmeier, believes service learning creates exemplary adults and has always promoted integrated learning through its youth-empowerment projects. The addition of a service-learning packet in the i-SAFE curriculum allows integrated learning and community service to be taken one step further. Each lesson offers background learning, so the primary goal of service can be completed in a beneficial way for the entire community. This new study proves service learning will help the community for years to come as these students are more likely to:


- be politically and socially connected to their communities
- serve as role models for young adults
- attain higher levels of education
- engage in service to their community

The program of lessons from i-SAFE can be used in the traditional classroom, in a specified school service-learning atmosphere, such as Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) or Family Career Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), or in a community-service club setting, such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of America or Boy and Girl Scouts of America. i-SAFE is committed to meet not only educational goals, but also the goal of community improvement through education on the crucial topic of Internet safety.



Following your lead, students will have the opportunity to create public-service announcements (PSAs), develop an assembly, conduct i-PARENT Programs, and much more. Your school can bridge the gap between the students and the community by reaching out with Internet safety service-learning projects.

The end result is integrated learning that has meaning and newfound civic responsibility. In fact, i-SAFE believes students who participate in service learning improve as young adults in areas like critical thinking, communication, teamwork, reasoning, problem solving, public speaking, computer skills, and more.

i-SAFE’s service-learning packet has been available since 2005. To get your packet today and immediately work on improving the transition to adulthood for your students, simply submit an **online implementation plan**. The curriculum has all of the information you need to start implementing Internet safety service-learning projects in your school and community. All service-learning projects are supported by the i-SAFE outreach department, so please refer all questions about activities and materials to outreach@isafe.org. 

NAC Tracks

Does service learning help your community?

Yes or No?

Vote here



Tech Tip — Completing the Implementation Plan

Q: I am submitting an implementation plan for classroom instruction, and I don't see my school listed. What do I do?

A: Thank you for your desire to teach youth about Internet safety. As you have identified, submitting an implementation plan is the first step. Here are a few tips to help with completing the plan.

1) i-SAFE tracks classroom instruction by school or instructional site, rather than by the instructor's agency. If you will be a guest instructor, please complete the implementation plan for that school. If you will be teaching at multiple schools, please complete an implementation plan for each location so i-SAFE can accurately report the schools and students who have received i-SAFE instruction.

2) When prompted for your state and zip code on the "Select Implementation Plan" page, be sure to use the school's

zip code, not your home or agency's zip code. The list of schools that appears on the next page is populated based on the zip code you entered.

If you don't see your school on the list, you may want to confirm you have the correct zip code and re-enter it.

3) If you still do not see your school on the list, please select "School Name Not Listed" from the drop-down list of schools. You will then be able to request that i-SAFE add your school to the list. Please allow 24 hours for your request to be processed.

If you have any additional questions, e-mail us at implementationplans@isafe.org.



Get Involved—Start an i-MENTOR Club

Are you ready to bring service learning to your school? Start your own club! i-SAFE has everything you need to turn your students into i-SAFE i-MENTORs, who will learn about Internet safety and make a difference in your community.

Not up to starting your own service-learning club? Why not bring i-SAFE to the attention of a club leader in your school. The i-SAFE program practically does the work for them with extensive service-learning lessons and guides, and worksheets for students. E-mail our friends at outreach@isafe.org, and get your i-MENTOR club started today.



This month's site spotlight is i-SAFE partner www.staysafe.org. Resources include:

- for kids – games, online community, activities
- for teens – true stories from peers,

games, and more

- for parents – information and articles to get up to date and educated
- for teachers – advice on professional development, education articles, news, how students can make a difference, and more

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




A Hi. I often get e-mails, or I'm told about cool Web sites to visit, about where I can get free or deeply discounted luxury items. How do I know if these sites are legit? I'm concerned about getting scammed or giving out my personal information or money to a less-than-reputable organization. Can you provide any pointers on what to look for?

Q You should never do business with an online company without first verifying its legitimacy. Just like you wouldn't get your car serviced by any guy on the street in overalls with a toolbox, you should scrutinize Internet-only businesses, as well. There are several online resources you can use to check out a Web site in which you are interested. Some of these sites are created by government agencies, like the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), while others are run by private consumer-advocacy groups. It would be impossible to provide an exhaustive list here, but I can give you some starting points.


One of the best is <http://ripoffreports.com>. This site has been collecting consumer complaints about online businesses since 1998 and now boasts to more than a million entries. Growing at about 500 new entries a day, a simple search will reveal if that offer for a free Hummer H2 from scams-r-us.com really is too good to be true. The only downside to this site is that anyone can file a report, so you may find some pretty inane whining.

If you are looking for a site that provides some validation to the negative claims made about a company, you may want to check out <http://consumeraffairs.com>, which actually has a staff that follows up on complaints to check their validity. The only problem is that it takes the small staff time to do the fact-checking. The site has collected about 200,000 entries during the last seven years.

The FTC has also started keeping track of online scams, and quite a bit of information can be found on its site at <http://www.ftc.gov>. There's even a multinational site to deal with international scams—<http://www.econsumer.gov>—where you can look to see if that bereaved student from Africa really does have \$13,000,000 that he needs your help investing.

As the Internet continues to expand into all aspects of our daily lives, so, too, does the number of scam artists and charlatans who set up shop on it to prey on the unsuspecting. Do yourself a favor: Do a thorough check on any company that wants you to spend your hard-earned money online. 

In Action — In the Classroom and Beyond



While responsibility for supervising kids and teens on the Internet falls to parents, students must be taught how to act safely and responsibly online. The Bristol County, Massachusetts, Sheriff's Office (BCSO) has teamed up with i-SAFE in an effort to help ease the burden of educators who are already being asked to teach so much to our students.

I chose i-SAFE because nothing else out there comes close. No other program compares with its curriculum, community outreach, and student-mentoring programs. Sheriff Thomas M. Hodgson has allowed me the opportunity to focus a lot of resources and manpower hours. He strongly believes that i-SAFE is a valuable program and that, collectively, we can empower students by educating them and providing them the tools to make better choices.

A recent survey by i-SAFE's National Assessment Center (NAC) revealed that more than half of parents feel they are limited in monitoring and sheltering their kids from inappropriate material on the Internet. That is why the BCSO works with schools to reach parents. They need our help—many more so than the students. Since November, I have done an average

of one i-PARENT Program per week and counting.

After a recent training, Lenny Granfield, with the State Police in Bourne, e-mailed i-SAFE: "Linda's presentation was outstanding because a) it was obvious that she knew the subject matter well and gave specific examples of local occurrences that made it even more startling and b) she displayed a passion for the subject and relayed the impression of how important the subject matter was." I have to say the passion I have for Internet safety has been shared by every law-enforcement officer I have trained.

Students and adults need the message and the education. We know we cannot do it alone, and neither can you. If you haven't already begun partnering with your local law enforcement, why not reach out to them today? If you are partnering with them, ask if there is more you can do. The future of our youth and our society is at stake; together we will keep it shining bright for our kids and our kids' kids.

*Deputy Linda M. Pacheco
Assistant Director of Public Programs
Bristol County Sheriff's Office*


Did You Know?

Student Filmmaker Contest

Are you teaching the next George Lucas? Does your media class have a rising star? Well, i-SAFE has a contest for them. The Student Filmmaker Contest closes out another banner school year for i-SAFE's youth-empowerment department.

i-SAFE is looking for a mini-documentary about how students at your school are teaching Internet safety to their peers. Students are asked to take viewers from the behind-the-scenes preparation up to the day of the big event.

The contest will be judged by a handful of people in-the-know, including Hollywood director Eric Weston and actor/i-SAFE national spokesperson Robert Davi! There are separate awards for junior-high and senior-high students.


To find out specific details (including about the grand prize) about the contest, have your students check out the contest page on the X-BLOCK Web site at <http://xblock.isafe.org/contests.php>. What better project to educate and excite your students at the end of the year? Good luck! 



i-SAFE Vodcasts

Your students live in a fast-paced, multitasking world. To match their schedules and demands, i-SAFE is producing vodcasts. They are two-minute video blasts of news, video, technology, education, and Internet safety.

The i-DRIVE TV team works overtime to create this dynamic educational tool for students. It delves into the latest technology that students are using and ends strong with an educational message that will stay with students as they continue to surf the Web.


To see the latest i-SAFE vodcast, go to the i-DRIVE TV page of the X-BLOCK Web site at <http://xblock.isafe.org/idrive.php>. Click on the link in the middle of the page that says "View Vodcast," and enjoy! Don't forget that the vodcasts are updated often, so be sure to tune in each week to stay on top of the world of technology and i-SAFE. 

Online Suicide Pacts in Japan

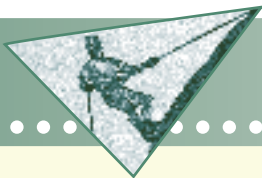


Last month, six Japanese were found dead, apparently the latest victims of an online suicide pact. The five men and one woman were all in their 20s, and authorities believe they initially met online.

A record 91 people died as part of 34 Internet-linked suicides in Japan last year. The National Police Agency has kept track of this method since 2003 and reports that the numbers of deaths from online suicide pacts has nearly tripled.

Officials in Japan are working on a solution for this problem, but they are not calling it an epidemic. In 2004, 32,000 Japanese took their own lives; only 55 of those were related to online suicide pacts. 

The Power of One



The following is an excerpt from an article in the student newspaper The Roar. i-MENTORS: Submit your story to editor@isafe.org.

Years ago, bullying was generally associated with intimidating antagonists cowering over a seemingly helpless kid who was forced to dish out lunch money. Now, however, cases of cyber bullying, or any defamation of one person from another with malicious or false information over the Internet, are becoming more common. With the growing popularity of blogs and communities like MySpace and Facebook, many are unaware of the dangers of the Internet.

Students [at West Shore Junior Senior High School] have . . . taken initiative in educating others on Internet safety by becoming i-SAFE student i-MENTORS.

[T]echnology specialist Terri Friend said: "The goal is to get information out to the community."

The club, currently consisting of 14 trained student i-MENTORS, plans various outreach activities, including visiting charter middle schools and homerooms to spread information.

"We have what we call a 'brochure campaign' where mentors go to various seventh- through ninth-grade home

rooms to distribute information and talk to the kids," Friend said.

Club members also created a two-minute skit with TV production on Internet safety to target similar audiences.

i-MENTOR training takes place during lunch in the cafeteria and targets seventh-graders who are most vulnerable to cyber predators and scam artists.

"The programs encompass more than just safety," [Officer Jesus] Martinez said. "It also addresses plagiarism, intellectual rights, and identity-theft protection."

Homeroom teachers also have the ability to sign up for i-SAFE related activities.

"The biggest problem is giving out information," Friend said. "A lot of kids visit Web sites or chat rooms and become comfortable enough to give out more information. Always be aware that you never really know who they are. Be very cautious in what information you give out."

Nicole, Staff Writer for *The Roar*, West Shore Junior Senior High School

*re-printed with permission from Nicole and *The Roar*

NAC Corner—How Young is Too Young?




You know that i-SAFE provides age-appropriate curriculum to all students in grades K through 12. Did you know that i-SAFE's National Assessment Center (NAC) also surveys all grades with age-appropriate questions? So far, the NAC has surveyed more than 15,000 students in grades K through 2. We

do this by having teachers ask their students the questions and then fill out the survey. The questions are simple, and the answers are staggering when you consider these are kids usually in the age range somewhere between five and eight.

NAC Survey K–2 Students

- 80 percent have a computer at home.
- 57 percent have surfed the Internet.
- 40 percent have used e-mail.
- 32 percent have gone into chat rooms.

That's right, nearly a third of students in grades K through 2 say they have gone into chat rooms. That number alone shows you why the NAC surveys are used to inform and educate the world about the true online behavior of students, and how at-risk many of them are. These surveys are also used to help shape the i-SAFE curriculum. Through the answers of students, educators, and parents, we tailor our curriculum to meet the needs and demands of Internet users. We would like to thank educators for teaching their students the safe and responsible use of the Internet, and for taking the time to fill out our surveys. 

Curriculum Bonus—*Reality Internet*

Let's talk more true stories. Hey, they grab your attention as a teacher, and we all know students LOVE to hear about things that have actually happened. These true stories are great conversation starters and serve as powerful, motivating introductions to lessons. So for this month's curriculum bonus, we're giving you an entire newsletter devoted to stories regarding quite a few different online issues, such as cyber predators, cyber bullies, and more!

Get your copy, and get started by going to www.isafe.org/bonus. And don't forget: Past curriculum bonuses can be found there, too.

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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i-SAFE has moved! Be sure to make a note of our change in address for future correspondence. And remember: Stay safe in Cyberspace!

