

Faculty Insider — School's Out

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Attention Educators:

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



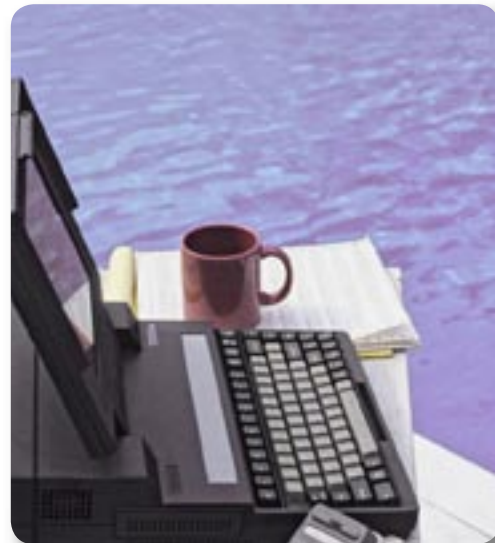
“More important than the curriculum is the question of the methods of teaching and the spirit in which the teaching is given.”
- Bertrand Russell

School's out! No need to worry about Internet safety and security issues, right? It's simply time to lay back and relax before jumping back in when everything starts up again come August, right? Wrong! Now's the perfect time to get a head start on preparing for the new year.

If you aren't already certified by i-SAFE, use this summer to run through the six modules by logging in at <http://ilearn.isafe.org>. These modules will walk you step by step through the various issues concerning Internet use. You'll learn about safety risks like predators and cyber bullies, along with security risks like malicious code. There are short activities that offer hands-on practice. For example: The malicious code exercise helps you ensure your computer is fully guarded by spyware protection, virus protection, a firewall, and more. As you complete each module, you become certified in that area. With the completion of all six, you are fully certified and able to download materials, host presentations, conduct your own trainings, and more.

Which brings up a second point: With school out, what better time to plan faculty professional-development programs covering Internet safety and security issues? Once certified as an i-SAFE trainer, you have access to the full range of i-SAFE materials. You can conduct faculty trainings from short overviews concerning hot topics or do in-depth trainings that result in an entire faculty being certified by i-SAFE.

Faculty members aren't the only ones you can prepare. i-SAFE also has numerous materials for community and parent meetings. Are your parents clamoring to know what is being done concerning MySpace and other social-networking sites? Do your parents question other issues? Why not host an i-PARENT Program to bring them up to date on the issues and what your school offers? i-SAFE can help you plan the event and will provide materials like PowerPoint presenta-



tions on hot topics.

Since it's summer, you may be planning to submit a new implementation plan (IP) and order materials to get a jump-start on the new year! However, hold off for a month. In next month's faculty insider, we'll be detailing our new curriculum (full of all the old favorites, plus some great new supplemental lessons.) We'll explain to you then how to get the new curriculum, when it will be released, and more. So sit tight for one more month as we finish taking your comments, concerns, and suggestions, and revising our curriculum to reflect the most up-to-date issues and stories.

Meanwhile, if you have any suggestions, advice, or stories, or need help, we're working all summer long. So feel free to contact us at education@isafe.org. Maybe you'll see one of your ideas in next year's curriculum!

NAC Tracks


How concerned are you about where your students go and what they do on the Internet?

Vote here



Tech Tip — Virtual Training Academy

Q We've heard a lot of good things about your professional-development training program. I've been checking the "Calendar of Events" on your Web site for the past few months but never see a training session close to my location. I know you offer the i-LEARN Online on-demand training system, but I like to ask questions, so I was hoping to attend a session in person. Is there any way to get trained online and have a trainer available to answer my questions?

A Thanks for your question. This is a very common request for us here at i-SAFE. To meet yours and others' needs, we are pleased to offer our newest training program—the Virtual Training Academy. i-SAFE's VTA (<http://vta.isafe.org>) is live, interactive online training for those who can't make it to a session in person. It's easy to use. Just go to the Web site, and create an account. Once you sign up, just check the "Calendar" within your Academy to view a schedule of trainings, and sign up to attend. You will get an e-mail with instructions on how to obtain our classroom software. It's that easy. We will continue to have training sessions throughout the United States, as well as our i-LEARN Online video training, but the Virtual Training Academy will help meet the needs of individuals like yourself. 



i-SAFE on the Road


It's summertime, but that doesn't mean you should stop educating yourself about Internet safety issues your students face year-round. Next year's students can certainly benefit from any knowledge you acquire while on break.

i-SAFE staff members will be holding Internet safety workshops at the National Education Computing Conference (NECC) 2006, presented by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). The conference is held July 5 through 7 at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego.

i-SAFE, along with numerous other exhibitors, will be presenting on topics ranging from "Cyber

Awareness: Internet Safety Education That Works" to an overview of the i-SAFE program and how to get involved. We will also be holding informal "Birds of a Feather" roundtables, where participants can discuss child safety issues from a variety of perspectives in order to effect a behavior change among students.

So join us on the road and learn all about safety online so you can take that education back into your classroom next school year!

For more information on registering for the NECC conference or getting conference materials, visit www.isafe.org. 

Ask an Expert—*Educating the Older Crowd*



Q Does i-SAFE offer training for older Internet users? My parents have recently purchased a computer and have just subscribed to a DSL service for the Internet. Although they do not have young children to worry about online, I know there are risks about which they should be aware. My concerns are mostly those related to computer viruses, scams, and identity theft.

A We are so glad that you asked this question! An increasing number of older people are discovering the benefits of the Internet and choosing to become cyber citizens. They are using the Internet for a multitude of purposes, and engaging in any online activity poses risks to the user.




Online shopping and banking can be beneficial to those who are confined to their homes. E-mail and chat rooms often fulfill the need for companionship for those who are lonely and

allow them to communicate with family and friends around the world. Gaming sites provide entertainment. Hobbies and planning and booking trips for dream vacations are also popular activities. Many older users are also seeking relationships through online dating Web sites.

Aged 50 and older users with families are also understandably concerned about the safety of their children and grandchildren. Predators, computer security, identity theft, intellectual-property theft, and cyber bullying are all serious concerns that should be communicated to younger Internet users. Retired users often have the time and desire to volunteer in their communities, and the i-FIFTY+ program (see “Did You Know,” page 4) is a great way for them to utilize their new skills and knowledge to help students and other community members learn about being safe online.

i-SAFE is aware of the need for Internet safety education for older users. We recently released the new i-PARENT and i-FIFTY+ online training. While the i-FIFTY+ videos are dedicated to issues that concern users who are 50 and older, it also equips them with information and tools to educate their families and form i-PARENT Boards to educate others in their communities.

Direct your parents to <http://ilearn.isafe.org>. Once they register, they can return to the i-LEARN Web site to begin their online training. i-FIFTY+ is the education they need to gain the confidence and skills for successful and safe Internet use. 

Looking for a fun, educational Web site for your kids? The National Gallery of Art Kids site, at <http://www.nga.gov/kids/kids.htm>, features interactive art adventures where kids can learn about works of art from medieval to the present time, create online artwork in the art gallery, and enjoy an animated musical story. NGA also features family guides and educator resources.



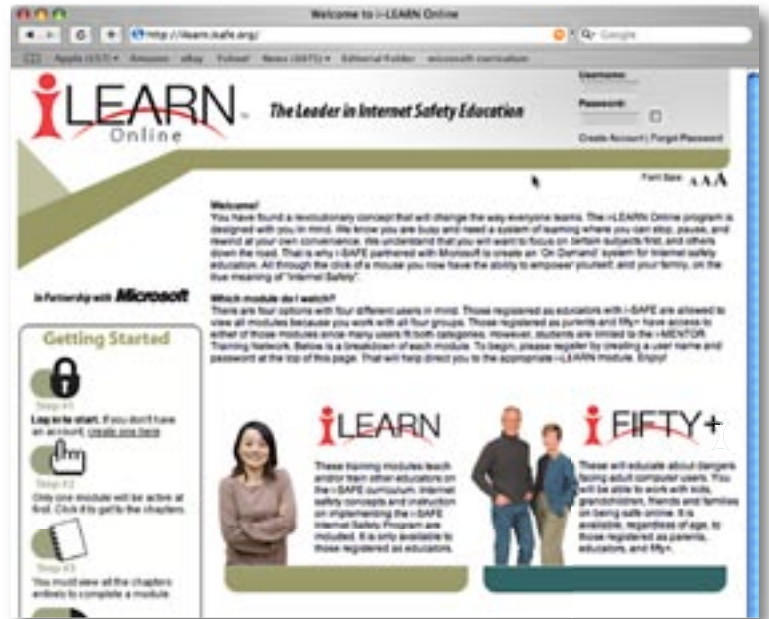
Did You Know?—Introducing i-PARENT and i-FIFTY+

Today's fastest growing group of Internet users are adults older than 50. The Internet has changed the way these adults are communicating, shopping, banking, and socially conducting their lives, making them more vulnerable to dangers online. It is essential that this group is educated about how to stay safe while online.

i-SAFE Inc. recently launched two new programs—i-PARENT and i-FIFTY+, an expansion of i-LEARN Online, which is designed to help your family and others become Internet safe. These programs target parents and adults 50 and older, and provide the tools and knowledge they need to feel safe and secure on the Internet. Both provide access to an easy-to-use, “on-demand” system for Internet safety education through any computer with Internet access.

The i-PARENT program provides parents with the tools needed to protect their children and family online. Through a comprehensive series of online videos, parents learn about the importance of safe and responsible use of the Internet, and how to spread the message to other parents and adults within their communities. Each module introduces parents to the most updated information on cyber bullying, cyber security, identity theft, social networking, and intellectual property. After viewing all the modules, parents become certified parent trainers and are able to train other adults on how to protect their families.

The i-FIFTY+ program is designed to educate adults aged 50 and older about Internet safety and security. The online program includes a series of videos on Internet safety topics that are most likely to victimize adult computer users. The



modules include lessons on the threats of cyber security, dangers of illegal downloading, and the most recent scams on investments, foreign lotteries, and more. The i-FIFTY+ program also teaches older adults about Internet safety issues affecting the youth of our society. They learn how to advocate for Internet safety within their own families and communities.


These programs are the next step in providing a comprehensive Internet safety education for our families and communities. Visit <http://ilearn.isafe.org/> for more information.

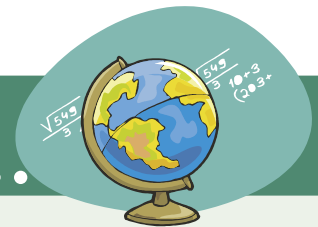
NAC Corner—Summer and the Internet

Summer vacation is upon us again. It is a happy time for students. They have time to do many things they cannot do during the school year: sleep late, play longer, and spend more time on the Internet. They also have time to develop boredom, and students often turn to the Internet when they are searching for something to do.

In a survey of 12,734 students in middle and high school, 46% of those who visit chat rooms do so mainly because they are bored or lonely—the most often cited reason. Unfortunately, the Internet activities of your students may not be adequately supervised at home. In our survey of 4,440 parents conducted during the past year, almost 93% indicated that they provided Internet guidelines for their children; yet, our

survey of 12,665 students in middle and high school found that 37% indicated that their parents had provided no such rules. In another survey of 12,740 students, 41% indicated that they did not share where they went or what they did on the Internet with their parents.

So perhaps now, with the start of summer, when opportunities for unsupervised Internet access are at a peak, it would be useful to share these findings with the parents of your students. You may also choose to encourage parents to arrange more offline activities for their children, such as scheduling outdoor activities or providing books to read—the kinds of activities we engaged in ourselves as children before the Internet existed. 



The Power of One

Stay In Touch Safely

It's summer, my favorite time of the year!! I love going to the beach with friends and hanging out at that famous pizza place. I can't wait!!

This summer is going to be different than in the past, though. You see, last year I moved from the place where I grew up. It was small town where everyone knows each other, so when I moved, it was hard to keep in touch with my friends.

One of the ways I used to keep in touch with my friends was through an online social-networking group. Everyone told me it wasn't safe, but I didn't pay attention to them. It was the only way I could keep in touch with my friends, so it didn't bother me what other people said . . . until the day I was chatting online with my best friend and this guy logged in to my Web site and began asking me questions. At first it didn't bother me because it wasn't the first time a stranger wanted to know something about me. Everyone in my social group seemed very friendly, so it didn't seem wrong. I plainly answered his questions and returned attention to my friend. The next day the same thing happened.

He began with a couple more questions, but this time they seemed more personal. As he asked me things like, "Do you get along with your parents" or "Do your parents treat you badly," things began to feel strange. I quickly realized that I had to stop chatting with this person.

I began to ignore him in the chat room and used all of the safety tips my social group had provided me. Weeks passed, and that seemed to get rid of the problem. I thought everything had worked out. When I entered the chat room one day, he was there and asked me, "Why were you only online



for 20 minutes yesterday?" That's when I realized he had been watching me. I was really scared and wanted to tell someone, but I thought that if I did, my parents would take my computer away, and I really didn't want that! After this incident occurred, I got out of that social group and decided to e-mail my friends instead. That summer, I learned how dangerous the Internet can be if you don't use it wisely!

So I know this summer will be different. I will make better choices because I now know how to stay safe online. The experience last year helped me prevent those types of situations. I still use the Internet to talk to my friends, but now I use "Yahoo Messenger." It's cool, safe, and fun. I can only talk to people who have asked for approval, meaning I have to know them, while still enjoying a lot of cool things like games. I also use my e-mail once in awhile because it's so simple to use. There are so many ways to stay safe online. Kids like you and me just need to take the time to research and find them. Visit <http://xblock.isafe.org> for one of the safest teen sites around. Here are some other cool sites I visit: www.sparknotes.com, www.a-teens.com, www.yahoo.com, and www.mtv.com.

Leslie Medina, i-MENTOR Coordinator, i-SAFE

Get Involved

Did you know about i-SAFE's activity pages and the i-Buddy Zone? On i-SAFE's Web site, there are a vast array of activity pages, games, songs, and more that aren't included on the regular curriculum CDs or downloads.

Why not check out the materials available online now. Go to www.isafe.org. Sign in using your user name and password. Select the "Educators" link, and choose "Educator Information." There you will find links to all sorts of items you might need to help you implement i-SAFE lessons.

The "Activity/Resource Pages" link will take you to activity pages divided by grade and subject for grades K through 8.

These range from handwriting sheets and coloring pages to crossword puzzles and graphic organizers. Plus, you will find the Spanish version of our curriculum activity pages.

Another choice under "Educator Information" is the i-Buddy Zone. This area is geared toward fun and games for younger kids. A teacher can find the latest *i-Buddy Times* here along with i-Buddy clip art. For kids, there is a hangman game that can be played online or downloaded.

With so many materials available online and more added daily, don't miss out! Get involved today by going online and finding something you can use in your classroom.

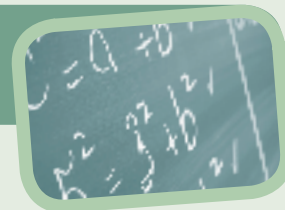


Curriculum Bonus—*Be Safe Online*

This month's "Curriculum Bonus" is something new and a little different. It's a guided worksheet focusing on how to do things safely online. It is geared toward teachers of the younger crowd (elementary and lower middle). The worksheet guides students through the step-by-step procedures for conducting a safe online search.

The worksheet comes complete with screenshots, Internet search safety tips, vocabulary definitions, and more. It can be used by a technology teacher to illustrate safe Web browsing or by a teacher who wants to use the Internet for research-based projects. Want students to do biographies and conduct research online? Walk them through the worksheet first and discuss safe Internet searching. Then feel more confident that what they find online will be safe, age-appropriate, and relevant.

So for this month's "Curriculum Bonus," go to www.isafe.org/bonus.



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.

We Value Your Input

Do you have a question or a comment about an article? Perhaps you have a story you wish to share with other readers. Do you know somebody whose story will inspire others to get involved? Whatever the case, we would like to know. Please e-mail us at editor@isafe.org with questions, comments, or contributions. If snail mail is your preference, **send written correspondence to:**

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About i-SAFE

Founded in 1998 and active in all 50 states, i-SAFE Inc. is the leader in Internet safety education. i-SAFE is a nonprofit foundation whose mission is to educate and empower students, parents, and community members to safely and responsibly take control of their Internet experiences. i-SAFE provides knowledge that will enable them to recognize and avoid dangerous, destructive, or unlawful online behavior, and to respond appropriately. This is accomplished through dynamic K through 12 curriculum and community-outreach programs to students, parents, law enforcement, and community leaders. i-SAFE is the only Internet safety foundation to combine these elements. www.isafe.org