

Family Insider—Does Your Family Have an AUP?

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The Internet is an amazing tool. There are thousands of sites with information on almost every subject known to man. Families can hone their computer skills, take online field trips, do research, and correspond with friends around the world. However, both adults and children also risk being exposed to online dangers each time they log on to the Internet—online predators, cyber harassment, and bullying. Not to mention, political, sexual and other objectionable communications. But not only does the Constitutional right to freedom of speech protect what many consider questionable online content, the fact is the Internet is an international linking of networks that is impossible to censor. These issues make it necessary for parents—and schools and educators—to rely on other means to safely protect their children who are using this versatile, entertaining, educational tool.

Many parents and schools use filtering or blocking software to limit Internet access. Unfortunately, tech savvy young people often have the knowledge and skills to bypass such software. Additionally, software can make mistakes allowing objectionable material through or have the opposite effect of excessively restricting appropriate sites that students should be able to access, such as sites concerning valid topics, for instance, the Holocaust or breast cancer. It is important to remember that our children may sometimes use computers without such filters or blocking software, so it is important that they are equipped to recognize, avoid and respond appropriately to dangerous or offensive



content online.

By teaching our children responsible behavior, asking them to agree to it, and providing meaningful consequences for deliberate wrongful actions, kids develop a deepened sense of responsibility to the family and ownership for their online experience.

This is one of the main purposes why schools take pains to prepare Acceptable Use Policies (AUP). An AUP is a written agreement that outlines the terms and conditions of Internet use at school. It sets the rules of online behavior, privileges, and acceptable uses, and it stipulates penalties when these terms are violated. Students, parents, and teachers usually sign it—and all know that it will be kept on file and, if necessary,

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“What a child doesn’t receive he can seldom later give.”

~ P.D. James
Time to Be in Earnest

NAC Tracks

Have you read your school’s AUP for this year?

Vote here



Does Your Family Have an AUP? *continued from page 1*

used as a legal and binding document. Family households do well to follow this example by establishing their own acceptable use policy.

One of the fastest growing issues with an AUP is how it covers cyber harassment and bullying. Cyber harassment/bullying is a problem now plaguing schools and unfortunately many schools are realizing that their AUPs either do not cover this issue or are vague. What's worse, cyber harassment and cyber bullying easily spills over into the home, threatening to undo one's own home as a place of refuge from a bustling world.


It is in the best interest of a school and now a shared interest with parents to consider addressing real concerns about how unacceptable actions, such as bullying, are to be disciplined when the incidents do not occur on the school grounds. Bullying and harassment that occur off school grounds can affect students in the home as well as the school environment. By including language regarding how cyber bullying and harassment are to be dealt with, and requiring agreement and signatures by all parties, schools can set up a proactive solution to handle these issues. It may even reduce the risk of potential lawsuits.

Here at i-SAFE we challenge you. Have you looked at your own household's or your school's AUP lately? Does it address the issues facing your home and school? Does it adequately tackle the solutions for dealing with problems

when they arise?

Here are some of the hard issues your AUPs should include:

- Harassing, insulting, or attacking others
- Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks
- Making unauthorized a) repairs, b) hardware or software additions, or c) reconfiguring systems
- Violating copyright laws
- Using another's password or attempting to access another's folders, work or files
- Impersonating another person with computer or online resources
- Intentionally introducing a virus or any malicious data into the network
- Using school networks for commercial or illegal purposes

Families need clear guidelines for computer and Internet use in their homes. Creating a household AUP that establishes rules and consequences for family members is one important way to protect them and help them to be safe online. i-SAFE's "Pledge To Be Safe" is family contract identifying family computer use rules. Use this as your starting point for creating your own home AUP. You can download the "Pledge To Be Safe" here. 


NAC Corner—New Customized NAC Reports



i-SAFE's National Assessment Center (NAC) is the place where pre-program assessment data and post-program assessment data are collected and disseminated in our annual NAC report "At Risk Online: National Assessment of Youth on the Internet." Last year our report included data from over 170,000 students who took NAC assessments. Over the past year i-SAFE has experienced an increasing demand for assessment analysis reports from teachers and schools. Until now the demand was from districts and states.

Benefits to you include: obtaining the latest assessment data analysis for your students; meaningful comparisons to national data; and tracking of the latest trends in online risks and online safety behaviors. You now have direct access to this information through the online i-SAFE Store.

To order your customized NAC report, go to www.isafe.org. Click on the "i-SAFE Store" button in the

lower left of the window and click the "Services" tab. Or, go directly to the NAC store page by clicking <http://auth.isafe.org/store/services.php>. There you will find our fee scale quoted. Fees are based on the number of student respondents to our assessments. Order your report using a purchase order or credit card. As with any change, your feedback is important to us. We welcome your comments about what your experience was like accessing the NAC report through the i-SAFE's online store. 



i-SAFE Brings Worldwide Students Together

It's early morning at Semely Primary School in Semely, England, and all the students want to do is go online. They know that when they log on messages will be waiting for them from the United States. The students are eager to see new designs, responses to questions, or any new contributions left for them over night.

Karl Hopwood, headmaster at Semely, and project leader for the teams collaborating on Crossing Borders: A Safer Internet Day 2007 Competition, recently reported, "Checking the message boards in the morning is high on the priority list."

As Mr. Hopwood's students slept, the students at Athens-Chilesburg Elementary (A.C.E.) school in Lexington, Kentucky, were busy creating, editing, manipulating, tweaking and collaborating on their own, spurred on by the postings and comments they found left for them on the message board when they got to school.


The collaboration between the 9 to 11 year old students at the two schools will produce a PowerPoint presentation. "The PowerPoint idea helps students to 'see' and think of possible projects," says A.C.E. school project leader Dayna Lykins. "We really like the idea of compiling small projects into one large PowerPoint."

i-SAFE brought these two schools together, and developed the collaboration message board students use as their communication tool. "We are proud to be part of SID 2007 Blogathon Competition," says i-SAFE President and CEO Teri Schroeder. "Through this competition, students are empowered to build on their Internet safety knowledge and share their learning with their




peers. Our goal is to spread Internet safety awareness, and continue to provide education and empowerment to schools worldwide."

So, how did "Team Semely - Athens-Chilesburg" do? Check out their project through www.isafe.org. In addition, i-SAFE is producing a behind-the-scenes video that documents this collaboration. You'll see the entire creative process—from how decisions were made, to how challenges were met—directly from the students themselves. The world is invited to view this unique and enjoyable video documentary by visiting www.isafe.org.


The students are excited as they became more than colleagues. Some of them became fast friends. "I think my kids would be extremely excited to converse about other topics with Mr. Hopwood's kids on a regular basis," observed Ms. Lykins. 

Alert—Spam with Trojan Viruses Hits Everywhere

Have you gotten these spam e-mails? The subject lines include "Storm batters Europe", updates on Condoleezza Rice, or claims that Saddam Hussein is alive. They masquerade as news flashes such as CNN updates, but it is spam laden with Trojan viruses. The subject lines vary, but the Trojan payload is the same: executable files surreptitiously installed on your computer. The files have names such as "Full Story.exe", "Full Text. exe", "Full Video.exe" or "Read more.exe." This spam is currently hitting worldwide and some security experts estimate at least one in every 200 e-mail messages includes this Trojan. If you see this spam e-mail, don't open the attachment, don't save it to your computer, and delete it immediately! 

How to Make a Screen Shot

On a Windows machine, if you want to take a picture of what's on your screen, hit 'print screen' or the 'Prnt Scrn' key or on your keyboard, then open a program such as Microsoft® Word, and hit Control + V, or 'Edit Paste'.

On a Mac, press Command + Shift + 3. The screen shot will be saved as a file to the desktop. If you would like to paste the picture in a document instead, just hold down the Control key while you press the other keys, then open your document and 'Paste'. 

Get Involved—How to Create an i-PARENT Board

i-SAFE encourages you to start the new year off right by creating an i-PARENT Board in your community. An i-PARENT Board is simply a group of parents and parent advocates who recognize the need for Internet safety education and choose to adopt Internet safety as a special project in their community. i-PARENT Boards advocate for curriculum adoption in the local schools and conduct parent programs, other activities and events to educate and inform others about Internet safety. To recruit board members, gain community support and to plan Internet safety activities for 2007, conduct an i-PARENT Board meeting in your community.

To conduct an i-PARENT Board meeting in your community:

1. Log in to the i-SAFE Web site, www.isafe.org, and submit an Implementation Plan for an i-PARENT Training.
2. Identify community members and organizations to join your i-PARENT Board (such as the chamber of commerce, DARE, law enforcement officers, librarians, city and county elected officials, parent-teacher associations, religious leaders, community organizations, and school administrators).
3. Set the i-PARENT Board meeting date, time, and location.

4. Invite contacts identified in Step 2.

5. Notify the media of your upcoming i-PARENT Board meeting. Secure media to attend your meeting. Advertise the meeting in local newspapers, radio, and TV to increase attendance and to raise awareness concerning online safety.

6. Conduct i-PARENT Board meeting.

- Welcome attendees and identify the purpose of the meeting. Recognize the organizations and elected representatives present.
- Watch the “Start Here” training and topical videos to inform members of the need for Internet safety and what they can do to get involved. Invite guests to become part of the i-PARENT Board and encourage them to invite others to become part of the i-PARENT Board.
- Discuss plans for future activities and events.
- Set next meeting day/time/location.
- Request that attendees provide contact information.


7. Send attendee sign-in sheets to i-SAFE to record event attendance.

Contact us at parents@isafe.org if you have any questions, or if we can be of further assistance. 




Not This Time of Year Again!

In honor of the tax season we've chosen to spotlight www.irs.gov as our site of the month. But before you dismiss us and say why would I want to go there—keep reading. The IRS site features

Free File. Through Free File, 95 million Americans, or 70%, qualify for free tax preparation and filing. Simply go to the site, click on the 'Free File' link and learn more about how easy it is to select a software program, walk through the guided interview to complete your taxes, and file for free! 

Tax Time, Tax Scam

As April 16 draws near, be on the lookout for those tax e-mail scams. A common one is the fake IRS audit. You receive an official-looking e-mail, supposedly from the IRS. It states you are being audited and directs you to complete and return the attached form within 48 hours or face penalties. Of course the form asks for your personal information including your bank account number and social security number. Another variation is a link in the body of the e-mail that directs you to a fake IRS Web site where you're asked to fill out a form. Don't fall for it! “Audit” is a scary word and these scammers know this. Delete this e-mail. The IRS NEVER uses e-mail to inform taxpayers of an audit. If the agency needs to contact you about an audit, they do so by mail. 

Most Valuable Mentor – Sonya Bender

Take note. Sonya Bender is a name you'll be hearing more about. She is a talented singer, songwriter, actress and newest i-SAFE spokesperson. At 17, Sonya is well on her way to becoming a star. She's already a star at i-SAFE. Sonya is the host of four videos that are part of our newest anti-piracy assembly project. The assembly, produced by i-SAFE with help from ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers), looks at the effects of illegal downloading through the eyes of an aspiring singer/songwriter. The i-SAFE production crew followed Sonya to L.A. where she met and interviewed singer/songwriter Michelle Lewis; composer Jonathan Grossman; producer and recording engineer Mark Keefner; and recording executive Michael Laskow. Through Sonya's experiences and video diary, we learn how piracy has an impact on not only musicians, but also many others who make their living in the music business.

Don't let anyone tell you how easy stars have it. The video shoot took several weeks. There were lines to learn, costume changes, endless re-takes and some very long and tiring days. Through it all Sonya was able to shine like the star she is, and that's why she's this month's Most Valuable Mentor. [Click here to see a video clip of Sonya.](#)



Superheroes Take on Internet Safety

One fifth grade class in Maryland decided to get creative with Microsoft Publisher and create educational posters that would easily communicate Internet safety to younger students. The project assignment—to create their own superhero to be an Internet safety spokesperson. They also had to come up with catchy slogans, give tips, reasons, and state how and why students need to be safe online. What a fantastic job! Not only did they learn in the process, but as true mentors—they have something to pass on to younger students.



Write an Contest



Don't forget that i-SAFE has a writing competition for your word-savvy students. We're looking for the best Internet safety scoop in your town.


The winning article will be featured in an upcoming issue of our Kewl Timez student newsletter. The winning student will also win the prestigious Most Valuable Mentor award.

Contest ends March 1, 2007. [Click here to view more details and download the registration form.](#)

Congratulations Adrianna

By now, you may have seen the news that i-SAFE spokesperson Adrianna Sgarlata was not crowned Miss America 2007. The title went to Miss Oklahoma Lauren Nelson during the pageant on January 29th in Las Vegas. As the reigning Miss Virginia, Adrianna will continue to be the voice for America's youth, raising awareness about Internet safety for children, and as an anti-bullying advocate.

Since being crowned Miss Virginia last June, Adrianna has connected with thousands of students. She has visited classrooms, appeared at community events throughout Virginia, and she's featured in i-SAFE Public Service Announcements (PSA) to promote Internet safety awareness among children, parents, educators, and entire communities about online dangers. Adrianna's volunteer work – much of it raising Internet safety awareness as an i-SAFE spokesperson – resulted in being named one of the seven finalists for the Miss America Organization's prestigious "Quality of Life" scholarship. We'll continue to let you know what Adrianna is up to through these newsletters, and on i-SAFE's Web site.

It's a shame America didn't get to see Adrianna perform. She is an accomplished opera singer. If you missed the Miss America Pageant telecast on Country Music Television (CMT), re-broadcasts are scheduled to air on several cable networks this month. Check your listings. 



It's Your Turn

If you have concerns, questions, ideas, or opinions, we want to hear them. This newsletter is your forum. Your input will help us craft articles like "Ask an Expert" where we answer reader's questions, or it may be the framework for an informative article. You may have an Internet skill or tip that we can pass along to others, or you may have questions about the use of some of our programmatic materials. What about stories you can share about your online adventures? Did something interesting happen to you or a family member on your path to Internet safety that may be inspirational to others? How did you overcome a problem you encountered on the Net? Or, you may simply want to comment on a topic that you would like to see covered in more depth in our newsletter. Comments, questions, stories, editorials, opinions; you have them and we want them! Contact news@isafe.org and we look forward to hearing from you.

The series of i-SAFE newsletters also includes the *i-EDUCATOR 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 your students and your community.

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, seniors, and community members to safely and responsibly take control of their Internet experiences. i-SAFE provides knowledge that enables 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 effectively combine these elements. www.isafe.org

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