

Susan Ciminelli
District Technology Coordinator



Dear Parent,

The best safety measure is one that teaches children what they must do to protect and think for themselves.

In April 2001, the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) became a Federal mandate requiring the use of Internet filters for schools and libraries. While this has greatly benefited educators, students and parents, there has been a void created as a result. Because children in our schools are so well-protected, students use the Internet freely, as a matter of course. Teachers concentrate on teaching; students on gathering information. What is missing is the dialog with children on personal safety measures they need to understand and follow. However, when our students surf the net at home, they are truly swimming with sharks.

At Lake Shore, we realize just how difficult the Internet safety issue is for parents to tackle alone. We have investigated several programs to help students and their parents practice safe surfing as a proactive measure to protect our children. We found an excellent program from WebWiseKids.org.

On September 1st and 2nd, Monique Nelson, Executive Vice President and Christina Slenk, Director of Education and Training from the national WebWiseKids organization, met with our Guidance Counselors and Middle School teachers to assist us in this endeavor. As part of our plan, students in grades 5 through 8 will learn about Internet Safety through a game called "Missing". At the conclusion of the game, the students will be assigned the task of creating their Online Safety Plan and to bring this home to discuss with you and if necessary, to revise the safety plan so you and your child are in agreement.

The purpose of this flyer is to inform you of this new program, why we are initiating this, and how we can partner to ensure students learn important Internet safety lessons. If you have questions about the program, please contact your child's school guidance counselor or myself during school hours. If you feel you have a serious child safety problem requiring immediate action, please report this directly to the police.

Sincerely,

Susan Ciminelli, District Technology Coordinator