

PRESS RELEASE 0607-07
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Parent Internet Awareness Presentations

With ease and speed, students seem to whiz through the world-wide web while parents, who have known life before personal computers became the norm, may process the immensity of online technology at a more deliberate pace. Keeping our kids safe online while utilizing the vast educational benefits of the world-wide web can be an overwhelming task for parents.

Consequently, LBUSD, in partnership with the Laguna Beach Police Department, the Orange County Department of Education, and Educational Technology and Life Corporation, have developed an Online Safety Curriculum for students, educators, and parents. The ninety-minute presentations, with an optional one hour hands-on session, are an introduction to technologies; the benefits, the concerns, proactive strategies for keeping students safe online and a focus on the social networking site, MySpace.com.

Nancy Hubbell, Assistant Superintendent Instructional Services, elucidates "Technology provides a wealth of resources for our students. As with any resource, it is important that we define and teach students safe practices. This workshop gives parents the information and the hands-on experience to monitor their student's safe use of the Internet."

Victor Guthrie, LBUSD Director of Technology, explains the importance of parents keeping current on the rapidly evolving world of technology, "It is important for all parents and guardians to become better informed about the new technologies our students are using, including blogs, wikis, and social networking. These new technologies can be a powerful learning tool, but can also be abused. Through these awareness presentations, we hope to equip participants with proactive strategies for keeping children safe online while still allowing for responsible and ethical use of these new tools."

To accommodate as many parents as possible, three sessions are offered:

- Wednesday October 18 5 p.m. Thurston Middle School Gymnasium
- Monday October 23 7 p.m. Laguna Beach High School Library
- Saturday November 4 9 a.m. LBHS Library

Registration is free but seating is limited. Parents and guardians interested in attending, please call (949) 497-7700 Ext. 210 to register for your selected session.