The Student Internet Safety Newsletter July 2007

>> Personal Web Sites

Personal Web sites are a great way to network and keep in touch with family and friends, especially those separated by distance. Who wouldn't want to see the latest pictures of their friend or family, or talk about the gold medal Amy won in the swim meet last week? Unfortunately, those very activities can catch the attention of some of the dangerous individuals online and make it easy for them to target you as a victim.

Most family Web sites include blogs, journals or letters letting everyone know what is going on with the family. Many also include photos and info on how to e-mail or instant message family members. This information along with other personal information such as family names, school or church names could put you or your family at risk.

If you are like most young people, you may even be taking advantage of your ISP's free Web site hosting offer. This can also lead to issues because knowing your ISP can often pinpoint your location.

But there are lots of ways to make a great personal Web site while still maintaining your safety. (See page 2 for a list of suggestions.)

As you are creating your site, make sure you remember the rules about copyright and intellectual property theft, too. Web graphics play an important part in the presentation of a Web site. If you are using webpage backgrounds, graphics, or sound files that you have found online, be aware that they may be protected by copyright. While there are numerous sites on the Internet that advertise 'free' graphics or audio clips for use on your webpage, just because they say they are free doesn't mean that they have the authorization to distribute the images. And many sites will allow you to use their images or sound files if you link back to their site, or cite where you obtained the image or sound file.

Keep it fun and safe while protecting your identity and safety (as well as the identity and safety of your friends and family).

Internet Tip

Personal Web sites are easier to launch than ever before! So how do you get started? There are two ways: through an on-line space provider (some of them are free), and through your Internet Service Provider (ISP). One advantage of the Web space provider over your ISP is that your location is not easily identifiable, especially if your ISP is a small, local provider. Also, avoid posting your e-mail address on your personal site.

>> Most Valuable Mentor

i-SAFE is proud to announce the Most Valuable Mentor for the month of July is… Jeremy from Rhode Island. Some of you out there may remember Jeremy from his latest anime work he submitted in our recent i-SAFE "Toon Up!" contest. In case you were one of the few that missed it, check it out here!! Jeremy was the overall winner of the i-SAFE "Toon Up!" contest for his fine artwork. Way to go Jeremy!!

i-SAFE would like to congratulate Jeremy for all of his hard work in educating others on staying safe online and also for sharing his artistic talent with all of us out there. Keep up the good work Jeremy.

If you would like to nominate someone in your school or community as i-SAFE's Most Valuable Mentor send us an e-mail at mentors@isafe.org telling us who they are and why they should be i-SAFE's next Most Valuable Mentor.

We Welcome Your Input

If you would like to submit an article for the newsletter or tell us your story, please contact us at:

Kewl Timez Editor
5900 Pasteur Ct., Ste. 100
Carlsbad, CA 92008
(760) 603-7911
Editor@isafe.org

MISSION: i-SAFE is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate and empower students, parents, seniors, and community members to safely and responsibly take control of their Internet experiences.

Site Spotlight

How many times do you turn on your radio and end up channel hopping for the type of music that you want to hear? What if you were in the mood for the sound of a favorite artist, or favoriate song and you could hear that same style of music for hours on a radio station built just for you?

Your wishes have come true with Pandora's Internet radio

They put together a team of musicologists and formed the Music Genome Project. Over seven years they've been analyzing 400 distinct musical characteristics and built a musical database that can be referenced uniquely.

Best of all, it's free

Tune in to www.pandora.com to design your own radio station and likely discover music artists that are new to you. Also, check out another Internet radio, www.lastfm.com.

Another Site Spotlight :)

Check out some exciting and fun interactive Web adventures this summer. Create music, explore black holes, design buildings, learn about the exciting world of bugs, and much more! Log on and see what EduWeb http://www.eduweb.com/portfolio/adventure.php has to offer!

Keep that Kewl Summer

Summer comes and goes so fast. It's a time when great memories can be built that last forever, or do they?

One great way to hold on to your summer forever is through journaling. Look around for inspiration and add game tickets, photos, doodles, or anything you can think of to jog your memory.

>> Celebrity Corner: Adrianna Sgarlata

On June 30th Adrianna Sgarlata performed her final official duty as Miss Virginia; the placement of the tiara on the head of her successor. Adrianna's 347 public appearances and singing engagements during her year-long reign, plus 78 media interviews add up to an appearance rate of more that one Miss Virginia-related event per day. The hectic year as Miss Virginia may be over; however Adrianna says the coming year is shaping up to be a very busy one as well. This summer, Adrianna is spending a month in Florence, Italy immersing herself in the culture and language. She hopes to come back fluent in Italian. We asked Adrianna about her future, her reign, and her work with i-SAFE educating students about dangers online.

Adrianna Sgarlatta

KT: Can you put into words what this year was like for you?

Adrianna: It was challenging and relaxing at the same time. Above all, it was rewarding. I loved working with children—as a friend, a mentor, and role model.

KT: What are your most memorable moments during your reign as Miss Virginia?

Adrianna: I had the opportunity to ride the Santa Train. During the holidays, the Santa Train travels through the Appalachian Mountains in rural Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky stopping so passengers can hand out toys to needy children. Another highlight was singing the National Anthem at the kick-off of America's 400th Anniversary at Jamestown. And, I enjoyed working with the military. I was the emcee of the Army Birthday Ball, appeared on behalf of the USO, and was on Military Idol. And, I'll always remember the people I was fortunate enough to meet this year. You make your year into what you want it to be, and for me it was to meet people and affect change.

Click here to read the rest of Kewl Timez interview with Adrianna.

>> Tips for Building Personal Web Sites

1. Build your Web site to include a sign-in page that is password protected—then, only give the password to those people you want viewing the site.
2. Check and double-check your domain name and ISP to make sure they aren't too revealing. While it may be cool to have your site's domain as www.theramonefamily.com it is also giving out personal information.
3. Make sure that the home page does not contain personal information, pictures, blogs, etc. Maintain this type of revealing information behind the password protection.
4. Run the site/page through several sets of eyes to evaluate just what it is revealing about you or your family. You may not even realize or be aware of just what you are putting out there for the world to see.

Give a Little

Are you ready to take on a leadership role and help others? By becoming an i-MENTOR for i-SAFE and mentoring other students on Internet safety, you not only do a great deed by teaching others how to be responsible and make good decisions—you may also find that with this role you yourself will become wiser as you enhance upon your skills and knowledge.

Does it sound noble? It is, but it's a lot of fun too. It's a great way to make new friends and increase your social skills. Besides, it'll look great on your college application or job resume some day.

Anyone in grades 5 through 12 can become an i-MENTOR. Learn more at http://xblock.isafe.org.

>> Chip's "What's New in the Tech World"

Hey gang!! It's Chip here, your tech-savy expert ready to give you all the latest updates on the hottest new gadgets and gizmos. I've traveled near and far in search of the latest "what's in" and I think I may have found it from the makers of Apple. It's the new Apple iPhone. Apple has developed a new innovative multitouch user interface iPod/cell phone for YOU!!

This phone has all kinds of features like, mail folder, safari web browser, calendar, pictures, iPod, oh ya and it makes calls too… This thing is pretty cool, let's check out a few of those features I mentioned.

Check this out. The new iPhone has a Safari Web browser that will operate over wi-fi if you are in a wi-fi area, otherwise it will use the AT&T EDGE network, which tends to be a bit slow. The cool thing about this feature is that you can zoom in and out per page by simply touching the screen. The same goes for any picture that you may have stored in your new iPhone as well. By simply sliding your finger over the picture, you will be able to zoom in and out on any desired area within your picture. Pretty cool huh? Now let's check out the real cool features on this phone: music and video.

Hidden within this iPhone is the world's coolest iPod. It looks and works similar to the latest 5th generation iPod with a few new features. For instance, the screen takes up the entire phone and utilizes a "landscape" mode view where you can simply slide through albums, tracks, and songs with the touch of a finger. The music comes out of the built-in speakers on the side of the phone or from the headphone jack located on the top of the phone. There you can plug in your special iPhone headphones that come equipped with a small speaker to answer calls while utilizing the iPod feature on the phone.

Pretty amazing! Well, if you are interested in purchasing this new iPhone you better save your pennies. Cause the 4GB iPhone will run you about $499 and the 8GB iPhone about $599 and that's not counting the 2 year contract with AT&T you need in order to activate your new iPhone.

So there you have it. The new Apple iPhone, all those cool new features and it makes calls too…

Kewl Timez Funnies