

DID YOU KNOW

<http://www.netsafe.org.nz>



We hear a lot about safety issues for children and young people in cyberspace. But what about adults? In fact, many of the same safety issues apply to adults.

Personal safety for adults

The Internet environment is a great social environment. You can meet new people and it isn't as awkward or nerve-wracking as it can be at a party.

You are usually in the comfort of your own home, relaxed and feeling confident...

That's the beauty of the Internet for socializing, but if you do not keep in mind how different this environment is from face to face interactions, you may unknowingly put yourself at risk. Take things slowly... you are missing a lot of crucial information about a person when chatting online - the sound of their voice, their body language, all of the intuitive sort of information you pick up when someone is physically close.

Because you get comfortable with other people quickly on the Net, you may unknowingly let your guard down. Be careful how much personal information you give out. Choose chat rooms (or Internet dating services) that have a stated policy about inappropriate, harassing or threatening behavior and enforce it. Also, look for chat rooms that have the facility to save conversation logs. That way, if something goes wrong, you have the evidence to make a complaint to the moderator or the police.

FREE/AVAILABLE RESOURCES

• PBSkids.org

This site is kid-friendly and has a lot of different resources that can appeal to kids. It has interactive games that reinforce academic concepts. One of the best ones is Cyberchase. The math games are great and they focus on concepts like finding patterns and measurements. The games incorporate characters from the shows, so they would appeal to kids familiar with these shows.

• TimeforKids.com

This is the online component of Time For Kids magazine. Provides news articles on different topics that are interesting to children. A lot of the subject matter is relevant to children and it is a great resource for non-fiction material. It helps them stay abreast of current events and has good content-area vocabulary. Kids need to be able to read both fiction and nonfiction.

• AAAmath.com

This site gives explanations of math topics as well as an opportunity for kids to practice those topics on different grade levels. Children get immediate feedback based on their answers to different questions. Unlike some of the other sites that are purely games, this provides a bit of an explanation to the process of doing particular problems.

Longfellow/Rescue Project –

The multi-county collaboration to create and distribute alternative-format (pdf, mp3) textbooks and novels continues to grow. Eaton Intermediate School District now has over 600 novels and over 600 textbooks available. Any student in Eaton County who is reading deficit, significant enough to affect their ability to effectively use printed books should have access to an alternative format for that book. Most textbooks are scanned and turned into PDF files that can be read aloud using free screen reader software. Most novels are recorded by staff or volunteers into MP3 format, and these files will work on all computers and may also be transferred into the student's personal MP3 players. To view the complete booklist, use this online site: <http://web.inghamisd.org/etext/main/index.php> Be sure to look for the format of each book because, again, some are PDF, some are MP3, and a few are in both formats. Please contact Mark Dennis at the Eaton Intermediate School District for more info on the Longfellow/Rescue project.

On-Line Course Offerings

MACUL is offering two online courses for educators:

1. Designing Authentic Online Activities

Learn how to modify your classroom content to create effective activities for use online. As a class, be involved in active participation online to try out these activities led by an experienced online instructor. Walk away with a final project that you can immediately use in your classroom. This course will be delivered via Moodle. Participate and become familiar with this free open-source platform. [See the course syllabus posted on MACUL website](#)

2. Blogging for Classroom and Administrative Use

Can blogs really be used effectively in the classroom or are they only for social purposes? How can an administrator use blogs to collaborate and communicate with staff? How do I create a blog? Answer these questions and more by enrolling in this course. This course will be delivered via Moodle. Participate and become familiar with this free open-source platform. [See the course syllabus posted on MACUL website](#)

Both courses will be led by instructor Miriam Taylor. Courses start February 4, 2007 and conclude February 23, 2007. Cost is \$150 for MACUL members (\$180 for non members). SB-CEU credit option available!

To Register, [download pdf form](#) and return to the MACUL office.

Registration Deadline: January 7, 2008

MEDIA MATTERS

Michigan e Library (MeL) Has New Databases !

MeL has new databases including [HeritageQuest Online](#), [NovelList](#), [ChiltonLibrary.com](#), [CINAHL Basic](#), [Business and Company ASAP](#), [Business and Company Resource Center](#), [Educator's Reference Complete](#), [Informel!](#), [SIRS Renaissance](#), [CAMIO: Catalog of Art Museum Images Online](#), [Hand Press Book](#), [History of Science, Technology, and Medicine \(HSTM\)](#) and [SCIPIO: Art and Rare Book Sales Catalog](#).

<http://www.mel.org>

District Technology Committee Meeting

October 18, 2007

1. Meeting Norms addressed...no changes
2. Blackboard changes
 - Meeting notes available on Blackboard, because conflicts happen and people have to miss meetings.
 - Issues: Changes:
 - Name Conventions changed – 3,000 students county wide. Logins reflect school district and position in the

district (admin, teacher, student, etc.) All password controls are student and ISD controlled. Jenn has rights to change at this point, but not teachers. Laurie Marshall at the ISD will reset passwords if you email her names of students.

- No Local control – Jenn Varney is the local contact – email student or teacher information to her if problems arise. She has the forms to fill out. Turn around time is less than 24 hours.
- Old logins are still available until ISD is sure that all classes and transitions are completed. Please begin using new logins immediately.
- Tina Vansyckle is having problems with Digital Dropbox, Jenn Varney will investigate. Jenn Varney discovered that the Digital Dropbox is not available.

3. Playing DVD's on computers

- Remember old conversations – Concerns about software limitations, copyright, and security issues.
- Concerns – copyright, wear and tear on the computers, maintain additional software.
- Address each situation on its own merits
- At this time, teacher's will still not be able to play DVD's on computers

4. Blocking of Yahoo, Hotmail....

- With blocking software, there is little wiggle room...can't block for teachers and not for students, etc. Software changes are continued to be looked at as new software is available. A need to block individual items instead of blocks of info is concern.
- Conclusions: Investigate new options to Google, look at new options for blocking software for individual blocking options.
- Teri Terry and Karen Anderson will put out Search engine options to Google.

5. Blogs and Podcasting

- Need to create a policy as more people get involved with these new technologies. Handouts provided.
- Create blog/podcasting policy in Blackboard

6. 8th grade technology information

- Information from last year is posted in Blackboard
- Results were not as strong...could not disseminate and divide up data...special ed, band/choir, etc. Teri Terry, Jeff Haston, and Jenn Varney discussed the 7% drop in results
- Would like to pretest students for a baseline....will do, but it will not be computerized (bubble sheets, Blackboard, etc). Examview will not be available from the ISD. May have to go back to bubble sheets since Blackboard has some limitations.
- 4th grade survey is in storage to be used later if needed.

7. Open Source conversation

- Keep the lines open...continue to keep it in our minds.
- \$37.00 per computer to have Microsoft Office and Operating System
- Look for teachers willing to try software to determine change possibilities. Look for implementation to take **years** not year. Start the conversations so that information is not shocking. Look for opportunities to provide trainings.
- When or if we make changes, we will have all pieces in place. No shock value with staff.
- Data on business using open source

8. Phonic Ear

Would we replace the entire unit?
Any speaker issues with the district?
How are they currently using them at each building
Buy on an as needed basis, can we get a "bulk" price

9. Internet Safety

Need to find CPAC schedule to entertain idea of bringing in government presentation to K-8th grade students
Talk with elementary principals and MS principals

10. Other

- ZEN Works – icons movement is still an issue. Julie Smith worked on script to stop movement. John Budd and Jeff Bennett will have to touch each machine, but can be done. Kids can use the recycle bin. Stop that please.
- Make sure computers are ready to go for beginning of year.
- Study Island, Plato, Data Director/Data Warehousing, Super3/Big6 making technology connections that improve curriculum has been increased and looking great
- Elementary looking for free software to manage and manipulate pictures. GIMP is available in labs...needs to be available on teacher stations.
- Technology Goals available and mission statement placed on top of handouts to remind us where we are going.

11. Eschool news video clips:

- Available on Blackboard
- Video quality is not great, but content is very good.