

Internet Safety Newsletter

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Brought to you by the FLVS Internet Safety Committee



Web Surfing - Not so easy and innocent

The other day I was surfing around on the net looking for some savings and deals for printers. It was so easy to stumble upon adult sites and scams by simply misspelling a word or clicking on the wrong object. In fact, the number of pop-ups I encountered was amazing. Then it dawned on me, if I'm having this much garbage come my way as an adult, how sad and dangerous it is for teenage and inexperienced users?

While the internet is a wonderful resource of information, a great networking tool, and place to hang out, it can also be a scary and unsafe place for those who may not be "up" on internet safety.

Each of us, as internet users, wants to take advantage of the benefits of the online community. However, it is vital to become educated and then share information about the on-line dangers and threats we can ALL, children, teens and adults, be exposed to every time we log in.

Many families are investing in web tracking, filtering, and decoding devices to ensure all their web users are surfing safely. My mantra is that its always better to be safe than sorry. As my child gets older, and starts to surf around more on her own, my family will most assuredly be investing in this technology.

As with anything, there are always safe and unsafe ways to operate. The internet can be used safely and advantageously if we take the time to familiarize ourselves and utilize the tools to protect our families. Amy La Grasta FLVS School Counselor

A Net Gain?

Social networks like MySpace and Facebook are fun for sharing personal info. But there is a cost. A 2006 CareerBuilder.com survey of hiring managers found about two-thirds rejected someone after a web search. Now firms like Reputation-Defender and DefendMyName will clean up your online mess. Just don't make one.
- Kathryn M. Tyrans Readers Digest

Smart Surfing Tips for Teens

Try to remain as anonymous as possible. Keep your private information private. Avoid using the following:

- Name
- Home address
- Phone numbers
- Social security number
- Passwords
- Credit Card numbers
- Family member names

Most credible people and companies will never ask for this type of information online. If you are asked for this, consider it a red flag and let your guardian know before providing any information.

Check out ways FLVS keeps its students safe online:

Students have unique usernames and passwords to enter their course.

We do not use students' full names or information when displaying information to others.

When online sessions are recorded, the recordings available for public view have student names removed.

We monitor our discussion areas.

We monitor our student online sessions.

We monitor student-to-student communication within the courses.

We provide guidelines and suggestions for evaluating resources when students seek information.

We have acceptable use guidelines in our courses.

Coming Soon!

**Keep your eyes peeled
For the Enough is
Enough series
Internet Safety 101
Rules N' Tools**