News Release

Back to School and Cyber Security

With the school year back in full swing, children and parents alike will find the internet a useful tool in the completion of homework, project research and communicating with teachers and school officials. The internet has many uses and has become a wonderful time saver, but with the benefits come the potential dangers.

It is common knowledge there are those waiting to exploit internet users for their own purposes, whether it be identity theft or the exploitation of children. With this in mind there are a few steps we can take to make our internet experience more safe and secure:

First, begin with a quality internet security software to guard against viruses, malware and malicious websites. There are many software options available for your P.C. Mac, IPhone and Android device. In addition, you can also utilize the parental controls and filters provided by your internet service. These controls will allow you to block inappropriate content, news groups, and specific websites or block their internet access entirely

Once your security software and controls are in place, it is important to establish guidelines to keep your family safe.

• Positive communication with your family about computer use is key. Children are curious, so be open to their questions.

• Be sure to set clear rules and expectations for internet use.

• Keep Internet-connected computers in an open area where you can easily supervise your child's activities.

• Remind your children to never give personal information or send pictures to people they meet on the internet without your permission.

• They should not give out their address or agree to meet anyone they meet on the internet.

• Don't respond to messages or emails that use bad words or make them feel uncomfortable.

• Don't enter sites that charge for services without your permission.

• Encourage them to tell you about anything that makes them feel uncomfortable on the internet and praise them when they do.

• You should have passwords and access to any accounts used by your child.

• Make sure their internet activity at school is monitored by an adult and that the school has an Acceptable Use Policy indicating what is appropriate internet use.

Finally, If you child receives any pornographic or threatening messages, keep the material and contact your local law enforcement agency.

For further information regarding internet safety refer to the following resources:

http://sheriff.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/lasd/!ut/p/b0/04_SjzQ3sjA0NDMw14_Qj8pLLMtMTyzJzM9Lz AHxo8ziLQ0MDNz9nYKN3M18LQ08nUPMvMNMAgz9Q8z0c6McFQHJNLdp/?1dmy&page=dept.l ac.lasd.home.newsroom.detail.hidden&urile=wcm%3apath%3a/lasd+content/lasd+site/home/hom e+top+stories/sheriff+scott+and+jerry+mathers+kick+off+the+new+sheriff+summer

http://www.fbi.gov/fun-games/kids/kids-safety

http://www.ncpc.org/resources/files/pdf/internet-safety/chcyber.pdf

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