

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Peters Township School District acknowledges the value of the internet in order to facilitate learning and teaching through interpersonal communications, access to information, research, and collaboration. The task commonly referred to as *Blogging* (web logs, web journals) and web page building are two common forms of internet communication that can be an effective way for children to share information. While our district can monitor and structure online journals and the creation of web pages for the internet at school, we realize that parents/guardians may not be aware of the potential unforeseen dangers that teens face when using these tools.

The District is currently training librarians, guidance counselors, and administrators on internet safety through the Department of Justice's program, *iSafe* (www.isafe.org). In addition, information about online blogging and its pros and cons have been provided at various school PTA meetings. A future edition of our cable television (Channel 19) program, *Let's Compute*, will be dedicated to internet safety. Our goal is to provide information about internet safety to our students and parents throughout the district.

It is important that parents/guardians become involved in providing safe use of the internet to their children. Because teens are posting personal information (name, telephone numbers, addresses, etc.) to personal web pages and commercial sites such as www.xanga.com, www.myspace.com, www.facebook.com, and www.livejournal.com, we suggest that parents talk with their children and view these on-line diaries. Children may not realize that these pages are open to anyone in the world, and can potentially expose them to on-line predators or identity theft.

To provide parents with helpful tips on how to discuss internet safety with your children, the District has posted various web sites on its Technology page. By working together, we can insure the safety of our students when using internet technology.

Sincerely,

Dr. Diane L. Kirk, Superintendent

Ms. Toni J. Sulkowski, Director of Education and Informational Technology