INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN SEMINAR

Are you aware that pedophiles seek a 7-year-old child for exposure, a 12-year-old to become “friends” on the Internet and a 17-year-old to travel and meet? This is a grooming process!

Soroptimist International of Billings seeks interested people/organizations to attend this educational seminar on Thursday, October 9, 2008, 7 p.m. at the Lincoln Center Auditorium. Dan Vierthaler, a member of the FBI and part of the task force “Internet Crimes Against Children in Montana,” will be the presenter.

This seminar will provide a wealth of information on this topic such as Internet icons and computer word lingo that is used in text messaging. Topics to be discussed will include the necessity for adult awareness of icons on your child’s/relative’s/student’s computer: LIMEWARE, BEARSHARE, KAZAA OR FLEX. More information will be provided about sites for learning the meaning of computer word lingo such as net.lingo.com.

This seminar is presented without charge to the public by Soroptimist International of Billings. For more information please contact Susan at 656-5819 or ssduganz@bresnan.net.

HEARING LOSS

Turn It to the Left® Reaches Educators and Classrooms

During the month of October, Turn It to the Left and information about noise-induced hearing loss will be featured in NEA Today. The information will guide readers to the soon-to-be-revised Turn It to the Left web site, where educators, parents, and consumers can download fact sheets, classroom games, and teaching tools. Look for the new Turn It to the Left web site (www.TurnItToTheLeft.com) coming soon!

I have two copies of the CD Turn It to the Left® (a rap single composed and recorded by Benjamin Jackson) available for loan if anyone is interested in presenting to your classes. Give me a call at 247-3805 – Suzanne Johnson Bressler, Educational Audiologist (Lincoln Center).

DISTRICT NEWS SERVICE

RSS (Real Simple Syndication)

While we have been using, and will continue to use, traditional methods, we’re also creating an exciting new electronic communication system that helps us deliver content how and when we want and leaves us in control of the message.

Instead of creating electronic content and asking people to come get it, this avenue allows us to deliver the information directly to our audience. This content is delivered via an email message and received as often as we determine the need—which can be weekly or even daily.

While we want to talk to everyone in Billings, focusing on the three following groups: parents, internal staff and the Billings business community, will allow us to tailor our message to those most interested in the outcomes of successful schools.

As a District employee, you will begin receiving messages on Monday, October 7th.

The expected outcomes of this new system are:

1) Increase transparency;
2) Ensure accurate information is delivered directly to our community;
3) Utilize technology to overcome long-held perceptions;
4) Increase frequency of message. We need to talk to the right people and we need to provide information that continues to be updated and current. This yields a greater frequency in our messaging that will allow our message to hit home.
GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEACHERS

If you are interested in writing a grant, please contact Susan Plath at 247-3849 (Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) or email at plaths@billings.k12.mt.us.

October Deadlines
Best Buy Teach Award; 10/12/08; $1,000-$5,000 (most awards made last year were $2,000); special funding available for 9th grade programs. See website. Best Buy believes technology can excite and engage students, creating a more valuable educational experience. This grant awards gift cards to schools so they can purchase technology for their students. http://www.bestbuyinc.com/community_relations/teach_awards.htm

State Farm Good Neighbor Service-Learning Grants for Global Youth Service Day Projects; deadline: 10/15/08, $1,000. Purpose: To support teachers and service learning coordinators in engaging students in implementing service-learning projects for Global Youth Service Day(s), April 24-26, 2009. They encourage semester-long projects that are launched on Martin Luther King Day (1/19/09) and extend through Global Youth Service Day(s). http://servenet.org/Toolkit/ContentManagement/ServiceWireNews/tabid/122/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/750/Default.aspx For other Service Learning Projects, see http://ysa.org/AwardsGrants/tabid/58/Default.aspx

PPL Environmental Education Grants, Project Earth; 10/15/08 (early submittals encouraged); $500-$5,000. Purpose: To enhance established classroom curricula and academic standards, or support extracurricular activities of school organizations and clubs. This year's focus is on renewable energy projects and energy conservation projects. http://www.pplweb.com/community+partners/our+education+programs/environmental+education+grants.htm

Lowe's Toolbox for Education; 10/17/08 (once they receive 1,500 applications, they will close the competition); up to $5,000. Purpose: To support parent-teacher organizations with projects benefiting their school. The web site offers a sample of a successful application. http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/

Picturing America, National Endowment for the Humanities; 10/31/08; 20 laminated reproductions printed on both sides with artwork depicting American History. Purpose: To provide students with an artist's view of the times, thus encouraging discussion around central themes of American History. http://picturingamerica.neh.gov/about.php?subPage=about_apply

Learning and Leadership Grants, NEA's National Foundation for the Improvement of Education; October 15, February 1, June 1; up to $3,000. Purpose: Grants to individuals ($2,000) fund participation in high-quality professional development experiences, such as summer institutes or action research. Grants to groups ($5,000) fund collegial study, including study groups, action research, lesson study, or mentoring experiences for faculty or staff new to an assignment. All professional development must improve practice, curriculum, and student achievement. This will NOT fund conferences. Contact: (202) 822-7840 or http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/Leadership&Leadership_Guidelines.htm

Target Field Trip Grants; 11/1/08; $800/award; $5,000 awarded nationwide. Purpose: This program provides educators and students with the opportunity to participate in field trip activities that range from visits to art museums and environmental projects to cultural events and civic experiences. The applicant must be an education professional employed by an accredited K-12 school in the U.S. http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-001838

Air Force Association, Educator Grants; 11/14/08; $250. Purpose: Designed to promote aerospace education activities in classrooms from K-12. The program encourages development of innovative aerospace activities within the prescribed curriculum. The program also encourages establishing an active relationship between the school and the local Air Force Association organization. http://www.afal.org/aef/aid/edwnrs.asp

November Deadlines
Captain Planet Foundation; 12/31/08, 3/31/09, 6/30/09, 9/30/09; $250-$2,500 with two exceptions—organic gardening projects can apply for up to $500; adopt a stream projects no more than $400. Purpose: To promote understanding of environmental issues which focus on hands-on involvement, promotes interaction and cooperation within the group, helps young people (6-18) develop planning and problem-solving skills with adult supervision. http://www.captainplanetfdn.org/grants.html

Love Your Veggies Grant; 11/7/08, 3 p.m. MST; $15,000. Purpose: To support an elementary school in developing a program offering fresh vegetables and fruits lasting through the 2009-10 school year. You must demonstrate need, innovation, and sustainable impact on students. Funds can be used to purchase fresh produce, install a vegetable station (dedicated salad bar), program staffing, nutrition education supplies, and you must allocate money to participate in one of several trainings suggested in the guidelines.

PPL Environmental Education Grants, Project Earth; 10/15/08; $1,000-$5,000. Purpose: To enhance established classroom curricula and academic standards, or support extracurricular activities of school organizations and clubs. This year's focus is on renewable energy projects and energy conservation projects. http://www.pplweb.com/community+partners/our+education+programs/environmental+education+grants.htm

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December Guidelines
PITSCO/Hearlihy/FTE Grant, Excellence in Teaching Technology; 12/1/08; $2,000. Purpose: To recognize and encourage the integration of a quality technology education program within the school curriculum. You must be an ITEA (International Technology Education Association) member AND register for the ITEA Annual Conference. http://www.iteaconnect.org/Awards/granthearlihy.htm

Captain Planet Foundation; 12/31/08, 3/31/09, 6/30/09, 9/30/09; $250-$2,500 with two exceptions—organic gardening projects can apply for up to $500; adopt a stream projects no more than $400. Purpose: To promote understanding of environmental issues which focus on hands-on involvement, promotes interaction and cooperation within the group, helps young people (6-18) develop planning and problem-solving skills with adult supervision. http://www.captainplanetfdn.org/grants.html
HEALTH ASSESSMENTS
We would like to encourage all eligible employees to participate in the annual Health Risk Assessments. Information and schedules have been sent out to all of the buildings. If you have not yet signed up, please do so.

- Only Billings Clinic Occupational Health and St. Vincent Occupational Health Services provide this valuable benefit for District employees and retirees.

- **The insurance fund pays 100 percent of the health assessment costs** for eligible plan participants.

- Each plan participant is allowed **one** health assessment per plan year (from July 1st through June 30th).

- Employees and spouses who are NOT covered by the District insurance plan may sign up and self-pay at the time of service.

- If you are unable to attend one of the scheduled sessions, you may set up an individual appointment by calling either one of the following:
  
  **St. Vincent Occupational Health:** 237-8855  
  1027 North 27th Street

  **Billings Clinic Occupational Health:** 247-6200  
  1020 North 27th Street, Suite 301

- Claims for lab work and blood draws other than those provided through the health assessments will be processed according to regular plan parameters.

FLU SHOTS
The insurance fund also pays 100 percent of the flu shot costs for employees and spouses who are covered on the plan. **The shots must be received at the health assessment sites or at the occupational health offices listed above.**
FOR SALE

**1981 Dodge Colt.** $1,200 obo. Low miles considering its age. Newer tires, new electronic ignition module, new battery, tune-up in April. Great gas mileage and low insurance. Perfect little car for new drivers. Call Jennifer @ 256-1009 or Brian at 869-2122.

**1978 GMC 4-wheel drive ½ ton pickup.** Recent new motor, good tires, body in fair condition. $1,800 or best offer. Great hunting rig! Call 855-3924.

**Whirlpool energy star refrigerator**, top freezer, ice maker, white, 19 cu. ft., 29.5 inches wide. Three years old. Excellent condition - $400. Call 861-2279.

**Nice used copy machine** – new drum - $100. **IMac clamshell laptop** - $75 as is. **Precious Moments figurine collection**, all in excellent shape and in original boxes - $100 takes all. **Kid’s saddle**, fair condition - $75. Please call 860-4387.

**100 gallon acrylic fish tank with oak stand.** $1,400 obo. Originally set up for salt water fish. Comes with a 250 gallon wet/dry filtration system, duel overflow, crushed coral, 10,000K and 50/50 atenic lights, and hood. All in very good shape. Call Jennifer @ 256-1009 or Brian @ 869-2122.

**2006 5’x10’ Utility Trailer with Overton Jack** - $950. Like brand new, always garaged, 13” wheels. Great for hauling or for a lawn business. **2001 Craftsman LT 19.5 HP Lawn Tractor w/Bagger** - $800. Excellent condition! Has not been used in the last three years. Was $1,550 new. Please call 655-4717.

WANTED

**Wanted to Buy** – cross country touring skis, preferably with metal edges. 190-205 cm. in length. Please contact Jerry at 248-3840 or email at hikerjer@msn.com.

**Wanted – furniture** – living and dining room, bedroom, rec room furniture. Call 698-7116.

Must find **immediate home for 2 friendly ponies** – must go together! Also, **need loving home for female (spayed) basset hound** – 3 years old. If you can help, please call 860-4387.

**Stroller strides** – total fitness program for moms with their babies – now offering classes in Billings. Contact Molly at 800-661-5884 or mollyreas@strollerstrides.net.