

# PANORAMA of EDUCATIONAL THOUGHTS

An Old Educator's Views of Adventist Education

April 2009

## **Thoughts on Information Overload:**

Some of you have commented on the information overload you are experiencing. Here is some advice that may help.

<http://link.brightcove.com/services/link/bcpid1460891101/bclid13679109001/bctid14012211001>

Your relationship with the Saviour and ministry to God's kids is the first importance. Take the time for personal, daily prayer. No teacher can function correctly without it. Hopefully the following information will be a help to you as you carry out your duties and help you have the time to reorient yourself to what is important.

## **Technology for PET**

**Virtual Library**—If you are not sure where to start looking for information that you need, check out this site:

[www.libraryspot.com](http://www.libraryspot.com)

**Internet Safety**—This video is very important for our teachers to watch. Produced in Pennsylvania, this new 22-minute Internet safety resource speaks to parents and caregivers on topics from understanding the serious repercussion of cyber-bullying to learning how to safeguard our children from online predators. Watch it with other teachers or parents, then discuss what you can do to keep your students safe. You can view this important video at: <http://blip.tv/file/375315>

For more information, or to schedule a presentation with a law enforcement officer trained in **Protecting Kids Online**, visit [www.safeschools.info](http://www.safeschools.info). This would make an excellent Home and School Program or Faculty meeting discussion.

Don't think that keeping our kids away from computers will be the answer any more than keeping them out of libraries will prevent them from reading or seeing inappropriate material. Teachers and parents need to know what to do.

**Additional information you can use to keep our kids safe:** [www.protectkids.com/dangers/index.htm](http://www.protectkids.com/dangers/index.htm)

Check out the Parents Rules and Tools, Youth Safety Rules, Big Cheese Sites and a host of other links to give parents and educators the tools and information they need to keep our kids safe.

**Get Net Wise**—The Internet offers kids many opportunities for learning, constructive entertainment, and personal growth. At the same time, parents are concerned about the risks kids face online. The challenge for parents is to educate themselves and their children about how to use the Internet safely. [www.getnetwise.org](http://www.getnetwise.org) can give additional help.

**Bullying can happen at any grade level.** [www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/08/17/MNF11296BN.DTL](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/08/17/MNF11296BN.DTL)

This site gives information and ways we can help to prevent this in our schools—with our kids.

Another very useful site is [www.loveourchildrenusa.org/parent\\_cyberbullying.php](http://www.loveourchildrenusa.org/parent_cyberbullying.php) Read the signs to look for when a child is being cyber-bullied or is the one being a bully. Know what you need to do to help these kids.

**One of the latest dangers has to do with “sexting.”** Do you know what this involves and what you should do to help kids who are involved? The following sites ought to be read and discussed by groups of teachers or by parents who have pre-teens and teen-agers. It could be happening in your school—with painful results.

**What to do about teens and their dumb naked photos of themselves.** [www.slate.com/id/2211169](http://www.slate.com/id/2211169)

**Read this article about one teen and the result of cyber-bullying** <http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/29546030>

**Watch the story as told on the TODAY show:** <http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/26184891/vp/29546237#29546237>

This information is given to let you know what is happening in schools...even Adventist schools! I hope it will frighten you into doing something. God's kids are worth our time, our money, and our prayers. It is your duty to make it happen!

## **END OF THE APRIL NEWSLETTER**

This is enough of PET newsletter for April. I hope you found information that you wanted to read, download, and/or use.

If you have any questions, comments, or complaints, send them to: [vaughn.jennings@yahoo.com](mailto:vaughn.jennings@yahoo.com)

Check on any of the back issues of PET newsletters from this school year at <http://circle.adventist.org>

Now it is time to start looking for web sites and information for the May PET.

May you continue to realize your blessings as you minister to God's kids,

*Vaughn*

