



# Miami Springs Middle School

## April Newsletter

### Keep your middle schooler safe while surfing online

Your preteen uses the Internet to do homework, chat with friends and just have fun. But do you know what else she's doing online? Since middle schoolers can often be moody and secretive, it can be tough to get your preteen to open up and talk about what she sees and does online.

Besides, she may feel like she's old enough to handle whatever strange, scary things she encounters online. Or she may keep those things secret because she doesn't want to feel like a baby by telling you about them. Either way, it's vital that you keep tabs on her Internet use and that you know what she's doing in cyberspace.

Here are some signs that your preteen may be at risk for online trouble:

- **She spends lots of time logged on**, particularly at night. Kids who spend a great deal of time online (especially in chat rooms) are more likely to fall victim to online predators.
- **You discover inappropriate sites** on her computer.
- **She shuts off her monitor** as soon as you enter the room.
- **She withdraws** from the family. Although some "pulling away" is normal for teens, a total withdrawal isn't.
- **Talk to her about Internet dangers.**
- **Keep the family computer in the living**

not in your child's bedroom.

- **Use filtering software** to control the sites she could visit.
- **Spend time with her online.** Get to know her favorite sites.
- **Limit her computer usage.**
- **Teach her never to give out personal information** online.
- **Insist that chat rooms** (if you decide to let her enter them) be kid friendly and are monitored regularly.

Source: "A Parent's Guide to Internet Safety", Federal Bureau of Investigation, [www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguidee.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguidee.htm)

### Make community service fun & rewarding for your child

Your child probably knows that volunteering is the right thing to do. Or it may be something he has to do, to get credit for school. But he is more likely to stick with this good habit if it is also something he wants and likes to do.

Help your child enjoy community service more by:

- **Letting him make decisions.** Your child should be able to choose what type of work he wants to do and when.
- **Encouraging him to volunteer** with friends.
- **Reminding him that he is doing something**

important and helpful, and that he should be proud of himself.

- **Cooking his favorite meal** or spending special time with him after he volunteers.

Source: Jenny Friedman, The Busy Family's Guide to Volunteering: Doing Good Together, ISBN: 1-58904-012-0 (Robins Lane Press, 1-800-638-0928, [www.gryphonhouse.com](http://www.gryphonhouse.com))

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Maria C. Mason,  
Principal

#### April Events

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Spring Break   | 04/06–04/10  |
| Science Magnet Field Trip                                  | 04/16        |
| French Breakfast   | 04/16        |
| Role Models Poetry Competition                             | 04/16        |
| <b>Subject Selection Forms due to Homeroom Teacher</b>     | <b>04/17</b> |
| Interim Assessment Administration                          | 04/20–05/01  |
| Chorus and Orchestra performance of "Cinderella" 6:30 p.m. | 04/22        |
| Title I Parent Meeting in Media Center at 9:30 a.m.        | 04/22        |
| Spanish Club Game Day 4:00–5:30 p.m.                       | 04/24        |
| Drama Field Trip   | 04/30        |