



November News

Miami Springs Middle School

Learn about social-networking sites to keep your preteen safe

In the “olden days” (say, five years ago), kids actually had to go places to interact with other kids. Today, they just have to turn on their home computers.

Today, free sites (such as Myspace, Xanga, and Facebook) have actually changed the ways kids connect. Today, kids use these online sites to send messages to each other, play games and chat. Some also create their own blogs (online journals).

These sites let kids feel that they are part of a community. However, they can also be dangerous. Online predators and bullies may try to strike up a relationship in order to meet face-to-face.

Should you allow your child to reg-

ister on one of these sites? The decision is up to you. But before you say yes, you need to set ground rules. For instance, your child should:

- **Choose her screen name carefully.** She should not use a name that makes it easy to identify who she is, where she lives, or her age.
- **Limit access** only to people she knows.
- **Understand** that nothing she posts online is ever private. Others may see what she has written.
- **Agree to let you see her site** from time to time.
- **Not post pictures** that will let viewers identify her or her friends.

Source: The Parent Institute:
www.parent-institute.com

Are you staying involved in your child's education?

Parent involvement tends to drop off after elementary school, which hurts students, parents, and schools. Take this quiz to see if you are staying involved in your child's education.

Answer yes or no to each of the statements below:

- 1. **I attend** events for parents, such as school plays and curriculum nights.
- 2. **I attend** parent-teacher conferences and any other meetings hosted by the school.
- 3. **I have met** all of my child's teachers. They know how to reach me by phone or email.
- 4. **I ask my child questions** about what he is learning in school.
- 5. **I am aware** of the type of home-

work my child does. I suggest resources, such as reference books or Internet searches, where he might find additional help.

How well are you doing?

Mostly yes answers mean you are continuing to be involved in your child's education. Mostly no answers? Check the quiz for some suggestions on ways you can get more involved.

Maria C. Mason,
Principal

2008-2009

November Events

<i>Teacher Planning Day</i>	11/04
<i>Biotechnology to Everglades</i>	11/06
<i>Veteran's Day No School</i>	11/11
<i>Title I Parent Meeting in the media center 9:30-11:00 a.m.</i>	11/13
<i>Field Trip to Miami International Book Fair</i>	11/14
<i>Math Resource Night in the media center 6:30-8:00 p.m.</i>	11/18
<i>Early Release Day</i>	11/20
<i>Interim Progress Reports</i>	11/25
<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	11/27- 11/28

**Report cards home
this month!**