



Dear Parent or Guardian,

Over the next few days, your child's class will take part in an educational component which will teach them the importance of maintaining their privacy while using the Internet. As you know, the Internet has many helpful and useful features, but there is also a side of the Internet that contains things that could be harmful to children.

Through participating in an interactive computer game called **MISSING**, your child will be warned about child predators that use the Internet to lure children away from their homes. One in 33 youth received an aggressive sexual solicitation in the past year. This means a predator asked a young person to meet somewhere, called a young person on the phone, and/or sent the young person correspondence, money, or gifts through the U.S. Postal Service. (Youth Internet Safety Survey, 2007)

Your child's teacher will use the **MISSING** Game to prompt children to consider the dangers of befriending strangers whom they have encountered on the Internet. The **MISSING** Game opens up communication about the topic of Internet safety in a positive and safe way that is appropriate for children ages 11 to 14. **MISSING** tells the true story of a Canadian teen named Zack who was enticed to leave his home to begin a new life with a stranger he has met online. The goal of the game is for players to rescue Zack and return him safely to his family before it is too late.

In order to rescue Zack, players must analyze clues and conduct research to lead them to his location. In the process, children learn valuable lessons about the methods that predators use to lure, manipulate, and harm children. Once children are aware of these methods, they also learn how to respond and where to turn if approached by a potential child predator. Finally, each child will be assisted to develop their own Internet Safety Plan containing a list of safety rules that they will voluntarily abide by to ensure their continued safety on the Internet.

The **MISSING** Game has enjoyed widespread distribution throughout the United States. It is being used by schools, police officers, FBI agents, after-school programs, and other groups. In addition to receiving recognition for giving children a defense against Internet predators, **MISSING** has been recognized for its ability to fulfill school educational standards in the areas of reading, listening, comprehension and writing. **MISSING** is distributed by Web Wise Kids, a non-profit organization whose mission is to educate children to make wise choices on the Internet. Please contact the school if you would like to preview the **MISSING** Game.

Thank you,

Web Wise Kids

"Empowering Today's Youth to Make Wise Choices Online"

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