

*You are invited to:*

***“Internet Safety”***

Hosted by *Statesville Christian School*

In partnership with the Iredell County Sherriff’s Department

**November 21<sup>st</sup> Student Program**

***“Keeping kids safe from online predators”***

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. 9<sup>th</sup> Grade – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Western Avenue Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, Statesville

**December 11<sup>th</sup> Parent Program**

***“How not to raise a victim of online predators”***

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Western Avenue Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, Statesville

**\*\*\*Parents and public welcome to Student’s program and Parent night\*\*\***

**For more information and to RSVP please contact:**

**Michelle McKay: Guidance Counselor, Statesville Christian School**

**[mmckay@statesvillechristian.org](mailto:mmckay@statesvillechristian.org) or (704)873-9511 ext 209**

Dear SCS Parents:

Recently it has been brought to my attention that many students do not take the risks of sharing personal information online seriously. After researching the issue, I felt that as a community we needed to educate all of us- parents, teachers, and students- about the real dangers that children and adults open themselves up to every time they check email, get on social networking sites like Myspace, Facebook, etc., or even chat with others while playing a video game. Statistics show that a large number of children have received communication online, (many times inappropriate material is requested or personal information is asked for) from people they do not know, and the majority of these kids do not tell their parents. I asked our middle school and high school students if they had ever been addressed online by someone they did not know, and the majority said yes. This is just the tip of the iceberg, and this issue is definitely worth educating our students about.

I am excited to let you know that we are partnering with the Iredell County Sherriff's Department on educating students and parents about the dangers of the internet. Lt. Rick Eades will be coming on November 21, 2008, to do a program on how to be safe on the internet and specific things for students to avoid. (Lt. Eades is a Crime Prevention Officer and goes to schools throughout the county educating kids about being safe online). All parents are invited and encouraged to join us for the student program as well as the parent information night on December 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

From 8:00 - 9 a.m. on November 21, 2008, we will be addressing the 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and then from 9:15-10:15 a.m. 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade will be addressed. The purpose of the program will be to educate students on online safety. Lt. Eades will discuss how sharing information, like what your school mascot is, can be used to figure out what school you attend. The reality that just because someone tells you his age and where he lives does not mean it is true. Many kids share personal information because they think they are talking to another kid their age, who is facing similar problems. Many times in chatting, they say things like, "Yeah I have to babysit my sister too. My parents don't get home until....." Lt. Eades assures me that the information shared is age appropriate and relevant.

The parent night will go into more depth and is meant to educate us adults about the realities of what kids are doing online and how we can keep our children safe. Lt. Eades informed me the parent program is aimed at adults and would not be appropriate for students to attend.

I know many of you have strict rules about your children's access to the internet, so you may think your child is safe. Technology is part of our everyday life, and all students will need to utilize it in their lifetimes. Even if they do not use the internet now, they most likely will, so let's all be knowledgeable about what is "out there" in the cyber world and make educated decisions for our families.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at (704)873-9511 ext. 209. I look forward to seeing you soon.

In His Service,

Michelle McKay, Guidance Counselor, Statesville Christian School