

IMPORTANT DATE:

- **May 27** Last Day of School, early dismissal, **End of Year Carnival!**

WAY TO GO JRES!

For the 2010-11 school year:

-We have **253 PTA members**, about 42% membership!

-Including membership dues, box tops and fundraising we raised over **\$20,000** this year!!! This money has brought many fun school events for the students (planetarium, magician, safety week, dinosaur dig), books for JRES library, appreciation gifts/lunches for the JRES staff, help with our carnival as well as help with field-trips! Without your support, none of this would be possible!

Thank you for all your support in fundraising and the time you've given volunteering! These efforts assist the JRES staff in making JRES a wonderful community for our children! JRES is the best!



SPRING CARNIVAL - May 27th!

The last day of school is quickly approaching, and it is going to be a F-U-N day of celebration! As our second year as the proud community of Johnson Ranch Elementary draws to a close, the PTA is once again organizing the Carnival as a way to congratulate all of our Ropers on a successful year! Community leaders have also been generous and some new activities are planned to add a more country flair to our hot Texas day in the sun. The watering hole will be open, but please don't forget to lather the kiddos up in sunscreen! It is also suggested that students wear tennis shoes and bring a lightweight drawstring bag to easily haul their loot!

The schedule for the students to attend the Carnival on Friday, May 27th, is as follows:

Kinder & 1 st graders	8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
2 nd & 3 rd graders	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
4 th & 5 th graders	11:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Thank you to all of our parent volunteers who are organizing booths and plan to help on Carnival day. If you have not yet received an invitation through sign-up genius (our online volunteer tracking system) to take part in the grand festivities, please e-mail Stephanie Kirkpatrick at parentvolunteer1@yahoo.com so that you may throw your hat in the corral with us. Booth and activity shifts are broken up into 45 minute segments, making it easy to help out and enjoy the atmosphere with your child(ren)! All parents are invited to attend and encouraged to join in the festivities in whatever way you can!

Please watch for additional information coming home. All questions and concerns may be directed to Carnival Co-Chairs Michelle Egli (megli@gvtc.com) or Sarin Abati (abati5@gvtc.com).



PTA President's Corner



Dear Roper Parents,

I can't believe that the end of the school year is already here! I want to thank all of you for your support of our PTA. Our recent Square 1 Art fundraiser was very successful, raising \$4500 for our school! With all of the money we raised this year, we were able to bring LOTS of wonderful programs to the school, not to mention books for the library, safety week, help with class field trips and pay for the end of year Carnival.

This is my last year as your PTA president. It has been my pleasure to serve as your president. It has also been my pleasure to get to know your children. We have such a wonderful school, staff and children. I will really miss all of you as my family will be moving to Omaha, Nebraska over the summer.

Thank you again for all your support,

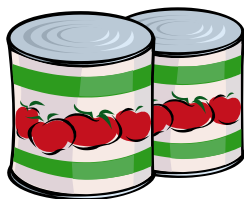
Lori Gorton
JRES PTA President

Start saving your 'Labels for Education'

We will begin collecting them soon to get free stuff for our school!!!

Check out the website

www.labelsforeducation.com to see all the many participating products such as Campbell's, Swanson, etc.



JRES School Store

Hours: Wednesday and Friday Mornings

**We now have Johnson Ranch window
decals and Johnson Ranch sports
bottles. \$5 each.**

We also carry novelty erasers, pencils, slap bracelets, JRES bracelets. Prices for these items range from \$0.25 to \$2.50

Dear Parents:

The National Association for Missing and Exploited Children held a seminar at our school recently on Internet Safety entitled **NetSmartz**. Some parents believe “my children are too young” or “I don’t think we have to worry about that yet.” However, now is the time to educate your child and set some ground rules about Internet Usage. By the time they start Middle School, they will already be regular users of the internet. Here are some of the topics that were covered at the evening seminar held for parents:

Cyberbullying is just what it sounds like - bullying through Internet applications and technologies such as instant messaging (IM), social networking sites, and cell phones. It can start easily—with a rumor, a photo, or a forwarded message—and just as easily spiral out of control. An embarrassing video posted to a social networking site by someone in Kansas tonight may be watched by someone in Japan tomorrow. Cyberbullying victims may be targeted anywhere, at any time. Several suicides in the news have been linked to Cyberbullying and/or Bullying.

Gaming Some parents and guardians think that online games are simply a form of entertainment. However, children also have the chance to exercise important life skills while gaming. They may use their imaginations and employ problem-solving strategies to overcome obstacles. They may also practice their social skills through online interactions with other gamers.

Using instant chat features, forums, and voice-enabled interactions, children can communicate and collaborate with gamers all over the world. Unfortunately, these features can also expose children to people who may not have their best interests in mind.

Risks of Gaming Many online games have communications features which allow their users to interact anonymously. Some people may take advantage of this anonymity to target children. For example, predators may send inappropriate content or use a game’s communication functions to arrange in-person meetings. Cyberbullies may harass fellow gamers and online scam artists may promise virtual goods in an effort to get credit card information.

Some game consoles allow Internet access as well, so it is important to be aware of their communications features. Predators have sent children inappropriate content through game consoles in attempts to coax them into reciprocating or meeting offline.

Predators Although the Internet did not create child predators, it has significantly increased the opportunities predators have to meet victims while minimizing detection. They can communicate with children anonymously through instant messaging, social networking sites, chat rooms, message boards, and even cell phones.

Online predators do not fit any one mold or stereotype; seemingly upstanding citizens have been caught enticing children for sexual acts. Contrary to popular belief, most online predators are not pedophiles. Pedophiles target pre-pubescent children, while online predators typically target adolescents who engage in risky online behavior.

Grooming Predators take advantage of children’s natural vulnerabilities, such as their desire to appear adult or their need for attention.

“Grooming” is the process through which predators play on these vulnerabilities by offering children gifts and attention.

It does not happen overnight. Grooming can be a long process that a patient, tenacious predator has planned and perfected to gain a child’s trust.

This grooming may lead to the child’s willingness to meet the person with whom he or she is chatting. Offenders will often entice a child into a face-to-face meeting by

- Exploiting a child’s natural curiosity about sex

- Lowering the child’s inhibitions by gradually introducing explicit images and child sex abuse images

- Using his or her adult status to influence and control a child’s behavior

- Offering attention and affection

- Betraying a child’s trust by manipulating his or her emotions and insecurities

Guarding Against Predators Children who experience online victimization may not share personal details with their parent or guardian right away, but there are warning signs that can help identify a child who has faced a situation of online victimization. Parents and guardians should keep

in mind that not all children are being groomed by older predators; children may have sexual encounters with peers and older teens.

However, any adult seeking a sexual encounter with a minor is considered a predator. If a child comes to you with a disclosure of exploitation, reassure him or her that talking to an adult is the right action to take and divert any blame away from the victim.

Warning Signs of Grooming or Exploitation in your Child

- Spends an excessive amount of time on the computer
- Becomes angry when he or she cannot get on the computer
- Withdraws from family and friends
- Minimizes the screen or turns off the monitor when you come into the room
- Inappropriate images or websites on the computer
- Strange phone numbers on your telephone bill
- Gifts in the mail from someone you don't know, such as webcams or cell phones

When you think about your children's online activities, do you consider their cell phones? Children can send and receive images, e-mails, texts, and instant messages from their phones, which many parents and guardians do not monitor. However, you should consider cell phones an extension of the Internet and employ the same safeguards.

Enabling Cyberbullies Cell phones make it easy for children to talk with their friends, but they also make them vulnerable to cyberbullying. Cell phones can be used at anytime and anywhere, giving cyberbullies unlimited access to their victims. Children may send and receive mean-spirited phone calls, texts, and picture messages at any hour.

Enabling Predators Predators also know and take advantage of the fact that cell phones let them talk with their victims at anytime. They are also aware that parents and guardians often forget to monitor children's cell phones. While some predators ask children for their cell phone numbers after meeting them online, there have been some cases where predators try to connect with willing children by sending texts to random numbers.

Enabling Sexting "Sexting" is a term used to describe the sending of sexually explicit text or picture messages of minors by minors. What most young people do not realize is that the production, possession, and distribution of explicit photos of minors, even if they are self-produced, may be illegal. Furthermore, if these explicit photos end up on the Internet, children risk embarrassment and could jeopardize scholastic, athletic, and employment opportunities.

Revealing Too Much Web 2.0 lets users share information online as easily as they download it. Unfortunately, people of all ages often reveal too much. Children can be made especially vulnerable by sharing personal information, such as home addresses and phone numbers, private thoughts and feelings, and pictures. In order to keep your children from posting information and images they may end up regretting, remind them who may see the information they reveal while online.

Predators are always looking to collect information about their child victims. This information may be used to identify, connect with, or manipulate children. For example, if a child blogs about being misunderstood, a predator might provide a sympathetic ear in order to create trust and form a relationship. Predators may also try to encourage children into a sexual relationship by talking about sex, so children should avoid talking about provocative subjects with people they do not know.

Cyberbullies take their targets' personal information and use it against them. They may copy and alter photos; share private e-mail or instant message conversations; and taunt their victims with emotional insecurities revealed in blogs.

Scammers want to use children's personal information to manipulate them. Children who post e-mail addresses and phone numbers may be the targets of spam, telemarketers, and e-mail scams.

It is also becoming more common for coaches, college admissions officers, and employers to screen applicants by checking their online profiles and postings. An admissions officer's decisions may be negatively influenced by a teen's posts - for example, rude comments about teachers or inappropriate photos.

Social Networking Social networking sites (SNS) such as MySpace, Facebook, Bebo, and Twitter are popular with teens because they give them

- An easy way to share their lives with their friends and family

- The chance to try on different identities and explore new interests

- A semi-private platform on which to communicate outside of the supervision of adults

With these benefits, however, also come some risks. Teens on SNS may share personal information which leaves them vulnerable to people who want to harm them. They may also share inappropriate or illegal content which endangers future academic or employment opportunities. Understanding the various ways content can be shared can help trusted adults talk to teens about ways to stay safer while using SNS.

SNS Basics Although not every social networking site has all of these components, many of them add more and more features in an effort to keep users on their sites for longer periods of time. Instead of opening multiple applications, users can rely on one SNS to serve all their communications needs.

- Blogs – These online journals or diaries are becoming a common part of many SNS.

- Comment Walls – A popular feature of most SNS that allows users to communicate through comments left on each others' pages.

- E-mail – Most SNS have an e-mail feature through which users can communicate privately or with select groups.

- Friends Lists – These contact lists are usually comprised of people a child knows offline, but also include friends of friends and others they have only met online.

- Instant Messaging - Some SNS, such as Facebook, have made chat features available to users.

- Pictures and Videos – Most SNS allow users to post a profile picture. Many also allow users to post photos and videos to an online "album."

- Status Updates - Users post these short sentences to let the people on their friends list know their actions, feelings, and thoughts.

Virtual Worlds When talking to your children about communicating safely on SNS, do not forget to include virtual worlds. Although the main purpose of virtual worlds is not networking, they often have some of the same communications functions as SNS. For example, in the virtual world Club Penguin, users can instant message each other. Before letting your child sign up for a virtual world, know how and with whom they may be communicating.

Help children use social networking sites safely

Social networking sites can have many benefits for children, such as allowing them to explore new interests. Help your children use them more safely by going over the following tips and discussion starters.

- Check your child's friend lists to see who has access to his or her profile. Make sure your child knows all friends in person.

- Teach your child to set profiles to private—but be aware that privacy settings do not guarantee complete privacy.

- Have your child remove any inappropriate content and photos and delete any personal information.

- Check the profiles of your child's friends to see if there is revealing information or photos about your child.

Report inappropriate or criminal behavior to the appropriate authority. Most sites have a reporting mechanism for non-criminal behavior. Criminal behavior should be reported through law-enforcement agencies and the CyberTipline® at www.cybertipline.com

For more information, please visit www.NetSmartz.org to view videos and to share age appropriate videos and information with your child.