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## **i-Parent Program presented November 1 at 7 p.m. in GMS Commons**

**i-SAFE** recognizes that a digital divide exists between parents and children when it comes to technology use. In most cases, kids know more about the Internet, computers, and new technology than their parents. That is why i-SAFE launched the i-PARENT Program—to inform parents about the dangers their kids face online and offer tips to help protect them.

Surveys show that 53 percent of parents feel that their ability to shelter their children from inappropriate material on the Internet is limited, and 37 percent of students say their parents would disapprove if they knew what they did, where they went, or with whom they chatted on the Internet (i-SAFE Parent Survey 2003-05). With readily available Internet access at home, at school, and throughout the community, it is obvious that parents need support in educating and protecting their children from online dangers.

To educate and mobilize parents in the community, i-SAFE developed the i-PARENT Campaign. i-SAFE works with parent groups and advocates to provide short informational Internet safety presentations designed to increase awareness of the risks, threats and dangers online and empower attendees with the knowledge and tools they need to protect them and their families from victimization.

Here are the topics that will be covered in the presentation:

1. **Introduction to Internet Safety (PNT)**; an overview of i-SAFE programs; explains the technological “Digital Divide” between generations and provides an orientation on the dangers kids face online.
2. **Cyber Predators**: discusses the “grooming process” predators use to lure and seduce kids and teens, including detailed accounts of students who were victimized; offers proactive advice on how to avoid online predators and suggestions for responsible use of chat rooms, instant messaging and profiles.
3. **Cyber Bullying**: explores how traditional bullying has expanded onto the Internet; identifies the tools and methods bullies use; explains the devastating effects bullying can have; provides tips on how to respond.
4. **Cyber Security**: reviews malicious code, such as viruses, worms, malware, spyware, and adware; lays out the defensive tools and actions one needs to protect self, family and community.
5. **Identity Theft**: discusses the methods identity thieves use to acquire personal information, techniques to reduce risk, and how to respond if one is targeted or falls prey to an identity thief.