

Dear Fourth Grade Parent/Guardian,

Our class will soon begin a personal safety program called **KIDS AND COMPANY: Together for Safety®**. Through specially designed activities, games, songs, and skill rehearsals, your child will be learning how to protect himself/herself from abduction and sexual exploitation. This program was selected by our school because it empowers children with the information, skills, and support they need to keep safe, without frightening them. The curriculum has received the support of leading national educational organizations.

This letter provides information and concepts to use at home with your child to reinforce the safety messages learned at school. Below is a list of the safety concepts being taught in Grade 4:

EMERGENCY ID CARD - helping people are just a phone call away if your child has an emergency card with them. Add names and telephone numbers to your child's card.

HOME ALONE - Children left "in-charge" need to be equipped with safety skills. The home alone safety rules include **CHECK FIRST** and **NO, GO, TELL** along with keeping the doors and windows closed and locked; having emergency numbers posted by the phone; answering the phone as though an adult is home; phoning a trusted adult for help or advice; keeping the TV or music turned low so they can hear any unfamiliar sounds; avoiding watching or reading scary stories; and not "advertising" that they are home alone.

PAY TELEPHONES - knowing how to call long distance, use collect and operator assisted calls will help children if there is an emergency away from home. Remind your child that dialing "0" or 911 from a pay telephone will access help.

COMMON TRICKS - children will be safer from people who victimize children when they know common tricks used by offenders. Common tricks include; offers, animals, saying there is an emergency, asking for help, friend, bad child, flattery, open the door, secret, and networking. The **BUDDY SYSTEM**, **CHECK FIRST** and **NO, GO, TELL** rules are keys to avoiding these tricks and staying safe.

BE ASSERTIVE, BE SAFE - when all members of the family are in the habit of discussing safety plans, children will be less resistant to keeping parents/guardians informed as they grow older. Children are taught to have ground rules and "contracts" with their parent/guardian to keep them safe.

SAFETY ON THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY - computer usage has many positive benefits, however the Internet can also be used as a vehicle to trick children into unsafe situations. Personal information, phone number, address, and photos should never be given on the computer by children without checking first with an adult. Face-to-face meetings with individuals your child has met online could be dangerous, and require parental involvement. For more information about computer safety, visit the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's website at www.missingkids.com or call 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678).

Many of the lessons include Activity Sheets which you can review and sign. Take the time to discuss these with your child.

The **KIDS AND COMPANY®** booklet for parents, "Partners in Protection", is available at school as a resource for you. Additional safety resources are also available from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. To order free pamphlets call 1-800-843-5678 or visit the National Center's website at www.missingkids.com. (Use this same number or the website to report a missing child, concerns about child pornography on the Internet, or to report a tip or lead regarding a missing child.)

Parents across the country have participated in **KIDS AND COMPANY: Together for Safety®** with their children and have enjoyed the opportunity to learn how to talk to their child about these crucial topics. Please accept this opportunity to work with your child. There is no one more effective in teaching and reinforcing your child's safety than you!

Safety Unit



Name: _____

Subject: Physical Education

Classroom Teacher: _____

PE Teacher: Mrs. Turpin-Orgetas

Ground Rules

Grade: 4

Complete this contract with a parent.

If I CHECK FIRST, I may go to these places by myself.

If I CHECK FIRST and use THE BUDDY SYSTEM.

I may go to these places with my friends:

I cannot go to these places.

They are OFF-LIMITS:

MY SAFETY PLEDGE:

I will stay away from places that are OFF-LIMITS. I will CHECK FIRST with my parents so they will know where I am and who I am with. I will use THE BUDDY SYSTEM and stick together with my friends unless I have special permission to go someplace alone.

My signature: _____

My parent's signature: _____

Date: _____