



Safe Schools Agenda

Volume 11, Issue 8

August 2004

Route to:
_ Superintendent
_ School Business Off.
_ Athletic Director
_ Supt. Bldgs/Grounds
_ Site Administrators
_ Transportation Dir.
_ Lunch Director
_ Classroom Teachers
_ _____

A monthly service provided to help you with your efforts to make your school safe for students, staff and the public

Mark Your Calendars for Safety Focus Weeks

America's Safe Schools Week: October 17-23, 2004. A good way to put safety on the agenda. Sponsored by the National School Safety Center, public officials and school leaders, Safe Schools Week provides the opportunity to put together a task force to evaluate existing safety programs and raise awareness and participation in safe school activities. See www.nssc1.org/safeweek/safe.htm for suggested strategies.

Fire Prevention Week "Test Your Smoke Alarms": October 3-9, 2004. This annual safety campaign has been sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association since 1922. According to NFPA, roughly 70% of home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms, but it is equally important that everyone is able to recognize the sound of the alarm and know how to evacuate safely. See www.nfpa.org/FPW for classroom resources including a new lesson plan that teaches young children what to do when the smoke alarm sounds. You will need to order supplies now in time for Fire Prevention Week.

Playground Safety Week: April 25-29, 2005. See www.uni.edu/playground/school.html for web site of the National Program for Playground Safety ideas. Also check out www.playgroundsupervision.org for NPPS SAFE Supervision Kit for distribution to teachers and playground supervisors now.

Prevent Heat Related Illness in Your Sports Programs

According to the Center for Disease Control, excessive heat exposure caused more than 8,000 deaths from 1979-1999, more than from hurricanes, lightning, tornadoes, floods and earthquakes combined. Staff members who work outside or supervise programs outside need to be aware of who is at greatest risk and what actions need to be taken to prevent a heat-related illness or death. Just about every year, a young football player dies from a heat related injury. Some suggestions for your sports heat related injury prevention program, based on the model provided by CDC at www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/about.asp.

1. Schedule outdoor activities carefully, especially when heat is extreme. Extreme heat is defined by CDC as when temperatures hover 10 degrees or more above the average high for the region and last for several weeks. Humidity is an important factor, and a heat wave combined with a drought is very dangerous. To be safe, schedule practices in the morning and evening.
2. Limit physical activity until players become accustomed to the heat, or to any sudden change in temperature.
3. Provide fluids at the practice sites, and encourage players to drink 2 to 4 glasses of cool liquid per hour. Get advice from your school physician on how to replace salt and minerals lost from heavy sweating.

Visit our Website at www.nysgroup491.com

Email: info@nysgroup491.com

Program Administrator: Professional Underwriters, 1-800-833-8822



4. As far as possible, have players wear lightweight clothing during practice and provide wide brimmed hats. Require players to put on broad spectrum sunscreen 30 minutes before going out.
5. Have players use a buddy system to check on each other.
6. Teach players to recognize heat related illnesses – heat stroke, heat exhaustion, heat cramps, heat rash and sunburn.

Check Your Swing Sets for Recall by CPSC

The Consumer Product Safety Commission and Playworld Systems have recalled **Arch Swing and Arch Swing Add-A-Bay Swing Sets**. Users are advised to stop using the product immediately; remove the swing set seats until a repair kit is installed. The weld between the side arch support and top rail can fail. Contact Playworld Systems at (800) 233-8404 for a repair kit.

Two New Books on Bullying Worth Reading

And Words Can Hurt Forever: How to Protect Adolescents from Bullying, Harassment, and Emotional Violence, by James Garbarino and Ellen deLara. Free Press, 2003.

James Garbarino, Ph.D., is the author of Lost Boys and coauthor of Parents Under Siege. In this book, he continues to dispel popular myths about bullying and offers tactics to fight it. Based on

hundreds of interviews with high school and college students, he documents the staggering extent of emotional cruelty and its ramifications of the adult attitude that “words don’t hurt”. Garbarino advises parents, teachers and administrators to reject the notion that bullying is a way of life that we all lived through as an adolescent. Evidence is provided that teenagers have the solution to school violence, if adults will listen. Research is cited which illustrates that many children live secret lives – parallel lives to those of their parents, and a key strategy in limiting the extent of those secret lives is for parents to establish a climate of supportive interest and listening to children’s spontaneous accounts of their daily activities at an early age. Many other insights for teachers, administrators and parents complete the message.

The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander: From Preschool to High School – How Parents and Teachers Can Help Break the Cycle of Violence, by Barbara Coloroso. HarperResource, 2004.

“A deadly triad: bullies who terrorize, bullied kids who are afraid to tell, bystanders who watch, participate, or look away, and adults who dismiss the incidents as a normal part of childhood.” Barbara Coloroso is an internationally recognized speaker on parenting, teaching, positive school climate, nonviolent conflict resolution and grieving. She is author of Kids are Worth It! This is a second edition of a handbook for parents and educators which provides guidance on recognizing bullying behavior and strategies on dealing with bullies, protecting children and developing constructive school and community practices.