Internet safety

 The Internet is a global network of computers permitting the transfer of information. No individual, company or government controls the Internet.

There are many risks and security issues involving the use of the Internet. Children and their parents should be most concerned about:

? viewing inappropriate material

? physical molestation

? harassment

? frauds and scams

Tips for kids

? Never give out any personal information such as your address, telephone number, parents' place of work or their phone number, or the name and location of your school

? Never agree to get together with someone you ?meet' online without first checking with your parents

? Never send anyone your picture ? don't accept any pictures either

? Never respond to any messages that make you feel uncomfortable

? Never lose your common sense while online ? remember, you are talking to a stranger. The people you are talking to may not be who they say they are

? Never send an insulting or rude message to anyone online.

? Use a ?code name'

? Report any harassment or inappropriate messages to your online service and to the police

? Set your browser to say no to ?cookies'

Tips for parents

? Learn about what your child is doing on the Internet ? know what websites they are visiting, know what type of chat rooms, e-mail, and messages your child is involved in online

? Find out about filtering Software that is available to block out objectionable material

? Set reasonable guidelines for computer use by your children ? monitor the amount of time spent on the computer and when

? Keep computer usage as a family activity by putting the computer in a family room rather than in the child's bedroom

? Ensure your child does not give out personal information. Have them use a ?code name'

? Be wary of any offers that involve your child going to a meeting or having someone visit your home ? remember that people may not be who they seem

? Create a password for your computer that is hard to guess but easy to remember and change it often

? Monitor your credit card bills

Report any suspicious activity to the Police.

For more detailed information and more tips visit www.bewebaware.com. This is a site developed by Microsoft, Bell and Media Smarts with the specific purpose of educating children, teenagers, parents and adults on Internet safety.