

# CELL PHONE SAVVY



## Teacher's Guide

A program on cell phone and cyber safety for middle schoolers

The Wireless Foundation and the National Crime Prevention Council have teamed up with Weekly Reader to create this free educational program, *Get Wise About Wireless—Cell Phone Savvy*, to help your students develop good judgment in digital communication—and to be good citizens online, on the phone, and in person.

Cell phones and the Internet provide us with instant access to people and information. This instant ability to communicate with people we know and don't know raises safety and courtesy concerns, especially for children. Are your students savvy about cyber communication? Do they know what's appropriate to say and send and what isn't? Do they know how to handle cyberbullies? Are they bullies themselves, using text, email, voice, and instant messages, or photos to embarrass, upset, or insult other students? Use this program to address these important issues and decisions this generation is facing.

## WHAT'S IN THIS PROGRAM

- This booklet, which includes:
  - A teacher's guide
  - 31 four-page student magazines
- A reproducible dual-sided contest flyer
- 30 family guides
- A poster for your classroom
- A reply card



**Encourage your students to enter the "Get Wise About Wireless Writing Contest." Students and teachers can win prizes. Read the enclosed flyer for details. Contest deadline is April 3, 2009.**

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- To teach students how to use cell phones and the Internet safely
- To give students help in responding to cyberbullying
- To remind students to be courteous when using cell phones
- To promote students' critical thinking about appropriate behavior on cell phones and the Internet
- To help families come to an agreement about cell phone use



## ABOUT THE CONTEST

Students in grades 6 through 8 are eligible to enter the "Get Wise About Wireless Writing Contest." To enter, students must write a rap or rhyme in 250 words or less explaining one of the three cell phone safety messages featured on the poster and in the program. Students have the opportunity to win a new cell phone, and the Grand Prize winner wins a trip to Washington, D.C. with a parent. Teachers of the winning students receive Best Buy® gift cards.

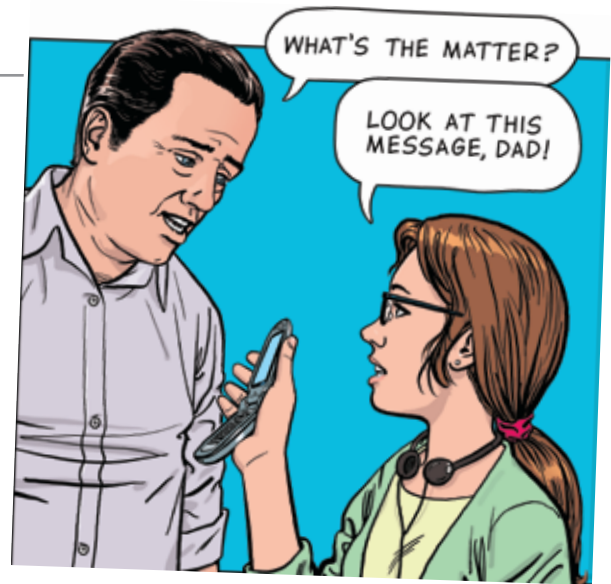
The contest details, official rules, and entry form can be found on the reproducible flyer included in this package. Please copy and distribute both sides of the flyer to your students so that they can share the information with their parents. A completed (and signed) entry form must be securely attached to each contest submission that is sent via U.S. mail. You may send in the entries for your class, or students can submit them on their own. Students 13 years of age and older can enter online at [www.weeklyreader.com/cellphone](http://www.weeklyreader.com/cellphone). Entries must be postmarked on or before April 3, 2009, or submitted online by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on that day.

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK! PLEASE COMPLETE THE ENCLOSED REPLY CARD TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THE PROGRAM. THANKS.**

## HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM

Introduce the program by asking your students the following questions:

- **What can you do with your cell phone?** (Answers might include talk, text, take and send photos, listen to music, play games, access the Internet, etc.)
- **What is cyberbullying? Can it be done on cell phones?** (Cyberbullying is harassment via text, email, voice mail, and instant messages, as well as photo messages. Cell phones can be used in this way.)
- **What should you do if you are sent a text or photo by someone you don't know?** (Students might say that they delete it. Encourage them to tell a parent or other trusted adult.)
- **What should you do if you receive a text or photo from someone you know, but it is inappropriate or makes you feel uncomfortable?** (Again, students might give the same response as above. Let them know that sending inappropriate messages is a form of cyberbullying and they should tell a parent, teacher, or other trusted adult. Let them know that they should not delete these messages without telling an adult.)
- **If someone you don't know asks you for personal information on the phone, what do you do?** (Let students know that they should not give out personal information to people they don't know. If someone asks them for this information, they should tell a parent or other trusted adult.)
- **If you receive a message on your cell phone with an offer to buy something, or if you receive an email offer, what should you do?** (Don't purchase anything or accept anything that says it's free without checking with a parent.)
- **How do you stay aware of your surroundings when you are speaking or texting on the phone?** (Answers might include not walking while texting, not giving out personal information if others can hear, etc.)
- **What do you consider to be courteous behavior while using a cell phone?** (Answers might include turning the phone to vibrate, talking quietly, etc.)



## WORKING WITH THE STUDENT MAGAZINE

Hand out the student magazine and review it with your students. The magazine includes tips about cell phone safety and courtesy, a quiz about reacting to various cyber situations, a true story about using a cell phone to save the day, and a puzzle. It also encourages students to talk to their parents/guardians about the contract in the family guide.

Part of the student magazine focuses on making sure students know what to do if someone sends them an inappropriate text message. Ask students:

- *What is an inappropriate message?*
- *Is it a message from a stranger?*
- *Is it a message from an adult who wants to meet with you alone?*
- *Is it a mean message from a classmate that makes you feel like you've just been bullied?*

Explain that these are all examples of inappropriate messages. Let students know that there are steps they can take to help them be safe and not be victims of cyberbullying. Tell students:

- **Know WHO is calling, texting, or emailing.** Only use your phone to communicate with people you know. If you get a message from someone you don't know—don't respond.
- **Know what NOT to say or send.** What falls into this category? Inappropriate pictures, threatening messages, insults, or anything else that you wouldn't say in person. Remember—messages and pictures can be forwarded and saved, so don't say or send anything you'll end up regretting. Only leave or send messages that you'll own up to and are OK with the possibility of others seeing or hearing if your messages or pictures get forwarded.

Don't give out personal information to people you don't know. This includes things like your name, phone number, and address.

- **Know when it's OK to respond, and when to TELL a trusted adult.** If you receive an inappropriate message or call, tell a parent or trusted adult. A message is inappropriate if it makes you uncomfortable or scared, or if you feel threatened or bullied.

After reading the magazine and having discussions about what to do in different situations, try some role-playing in class. Have students pretend they are receiving text or picture messages that make them uncomfortable, or have a student speak very loudly on the phone and give out his or her personal information. Watch how students respond, and then guide them in the correct direction if necessary. The answers for the quiz are provided here, as well as on the back page of the student magazine.

### Answers:

#### What's Your Cell Savvy?

1. b, 2. b, 3. c, 4. a, 5. b, 6. c

#### Decode It

Good luck; Bye for now; See you later; Got to go; Laughing out loud; Great; End of message; Rolling on the floor laughing; Talk to you later; What are you doing?; What do you think?; By the way; Just kidding

## KEY MESSAGES FOR KIDS

When you've completed the program, hang the poster in your classroom, and reiterate the following information to students:



- Program your family's phone numbers into your phone for easy access.
- Don't respond to a text or picture message from someone you don't know.
- If you receive anything on your phone—a call, a text message, an email, a picture, or voicemail message—that makes you uncomfortable, tell an adult you trust.
- Remember that photos you send stay online forever and can be forwarded to anyone.
- Do not give out your address or other personal information to people you don't know.
- If there is an emergency, don't wait, call 9-1-1 (or your local emergency number).
- Remember to speak in a normal or quiet voice when on your phone.
- Follow the rules about cell phone use. Cell phones shouldn't be used in places such as in hospitals or on airplanes.
- Turn your phone to silent or vibrate before you go into a movie theater, library, religious service, or any other place where noise is not appropriate.

## VITA™ WIRELESS SAMARITAN AWARDS



The story in the student magazine about the boys who helped save the horse is a true story. The boys were awarded the VITA Wireless Samaritan Award. These awards are presented annually to honor people across the United States who used their wireless technology to save lives, stop crime, and help in other emergency situations. These individuals exemplify the importance of putting safety first, as well as the crucial role wireless technology can play in emergencies. If you know someone in your class or community who should be nominated, visit [www.wirelessfoundation.org/VITA/index.cfm](http://www.wirelessfoundation.org/VITA/index.cfm).



## FAMILY GUIDE

Please send the family guides home with students, or distribute them to parents and guardians during parent/teacher conferences or an open house event. It includes a contract so that families can agree on how to deal with inappropriate messages and cell phone use.

## CELL PHONES FOR LEARNING

With the sophistication of today's cell phones, not to mention their popularity, some teachers are beginning to use them as learning tools. Students are using cellular

devices to access the Internet, solve math problems, communicate with each other and teachers via text messages about homework assignments or tests, and more. For ideas about how you might integrate cell phone technology into your curriculum, visit [www.wirelessfoundation.org](http://www.wirelessfoundation.org).

## EXTENSION LESSONS

The following are extension lessons that you can do with students to continue the unit:

- Have students work in groups to create posters relating to cell phone and cyber safety.
- Cellular technology is constantly evolving. Have your students write essays about what they think cell phones will be capable of 10 years from now. They should be creative and inventive.

# HELPFUL WEB SITES

### [WWW.NCPC.ORG](http://WWW.NCPC.ORG)

National Crime Prevention Council, a privately-supported nonprofit, whose website is a comprehensive online resource for helping people keep their families and their communities safe from crime

### [WWW.MCGRUFF.ORG](http://WWW.MCGRUFF.ORG)

McGruff the Crime Dog® site for children ages 5-10 has information, games, videos, comic books, and more about safety, including online safety and cyberbullying

### [WWW.CONNECTSAFELY.ORG](http://WWW.CONNECTSAFELY.ORG)

A nonprofit interactive forum and resource center providing tips and videos, plus a place to ask questions, comment on issues, and discuss youth online safety with parents, experts, and teens

### [WWW.SAFEKIDS.COM](http://WWW.SAFEKIDS.COM)

One of the oldest and most comprehensive Internet safety sites

### [WWW.CYBERTIPLINE.COM](http://WWW.CYBERTIPLINE.COM)

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's hotline for reporting online child sexual exploitation; available 24/7 at 1-800-843-5678

### [WWW.CYBERBULLYING.US](http://WWW.CYBERBULLYING.US)

An information clearinghouse on cyberbullying, including information on identifying the causes and consequences of online harassment

### [WWW.CSRILU.ORG](http://WWW.CSRILU.ORG)

Cyberbullying information from the Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use

### [WWW.NETSMARTZ.ORG](http://WWW.NETSMARTZ.ORG)

Safety education for kids, parents, educators, and law enforcement from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

### [WWW.STAYSAFE.ORG](http://WWW.STAYSAFE.ORG)

Safety information for teens, parents, educators, and seniors, operated with support from Microsoft

### [WWW.NETFAMILYNEWS.ORG](http://WWW.NETFAMILYNEWS.ORG)

Kid-tech news for parents—the nonprofit “community newspaper” of tech parenting and children's online safety

### [WWW.WIRELESSAMBERALERTS.ORG](http://WWW.WIRELESSAMBERALERTS.ORG)

Sign up to receive AMBER Alerts as free text messages on your cell phone if a child is abducted in your area

