## Internet Safety

We teach our children at a young age about "Stranger Danger".  Now that your child is in the middle school it is important to talk about "Stranger Danger" again but from a different approach. With the popularity of social networking sites like MySpace and Facebook, it is important that Middle School students learn about Strangers and the Internet.

In Comp Tech class, we teach Internet Safety to all students at Kettering Middle School.  It is also important that parents take an active role in their child's Internet safety. There are several websites that provide parents with help and information about Internet Safety. i-SAFE helps educate parents about hazards in cyberspace, and gives them opportunities to spread this valuable information within their communities (**www.isafe.org**). WiredSafety provides help, information and education to Internet and mobile device users of all ages (**www.wiredsafety.org**).  Please take the time to check out one of these two web sites.  According to Wired Safety.org, most Internet Predator victims are between the ages of 11 and 15.  Students can avoid being a victim with your help.

Below are a few tips when it comes to the Internet and your child.

1. Place the computer in a high traffic area of your home where you can monitor what your child is doing on the Internet.
2. Visit your child's social networking page (MySpace, facebook, etc.). The best way to find out if your child has a profile on this or another similar site is to ask them. If you're not sure that your child is being honest with you, you can search MySpace.com (or the other sites) using their e-mail address, name, or by searching for their school. (You click on "search" and enter their email address or full name in the appropriate search box.)
3. Make sure your child has their social networking page marked as private. Encourage your child not to put personal info on the site or pictures of themselves. Remind you child that what you post online stays online- you can't take it back.
4. Talk to your child about what they like to do on the Internet.  If they are comfortable talking to you about what they do, they will be more comfortable talking to you when they have a problem.
5. There is software you can install that will record what your kids say and post online. WiredSafety recommends the software at **http://www.software4parents.com/**