



Metz Teacher Honored For Dedication To Child Safety

By Staff

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Honeywell and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® today unveiled a classroom makeover for Jennifer Atkinson, a first-grade teacher at Metz Elementary School. Atkinson is a Grand Prize winner of the third annual Got 2B Safe! Awards Program that recognizes teachers committed to keeping children safer from abduction and sexual exploitation.

"It is critically important that we do everything we can to protect our nation's children from abduction and exploitation," said Tom Buckmaster, president, Honeywell Hometown Solutions. "Honeywell has a long standing commitment to family safety and security, and we are thrilled to honor these teachers for their efforts to provide life-saving lessons to their students."

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, 797,500 children (younger than 18) were reported missing during a one-year period of time, resulting in an average of 2,185 children reported missing each day. Though many of these children are recovered quickly, these staggering numbers highlight the need for increased child safety programming in our nation's schools.

In 2003, Honeywell and NCMEC created the Got 2B Safe! program to arm teachers, parents and children with vital child safety skills. This year, five Grand Prize winners received a free classroom makeover from a professional designer valued at \$10,000, and 100 First Prize winners received \$500 worth of school supplies. To enter, teachers submitted a lesson plan or essay demonstrating how they taught the Got 2B Safe! Four Rules of Safety.

Atkinson created a program that incorporates the Got 2B Safe! Four Rules of Safety into her lessons throughout the school year. Multiple activities, including daily discussions, creative projects like writing songs and designing posters and books, as well as role playing, build comprehension so students are comfortable and knowledgeable about when and how to use the rules.

The Got 2B Safe! program provides four simple rules for children to follow with the help of their families and teachers:

- 1. Check First** -- Children should always check with parents and guardians before accepting gifts, rides or invitations from anyone, including friends, acquaintances and people they don't know.
- 2. Go With a Friend** -- Simple and straightforward -- never go anywhere alone. Being with another person in public is safer and more fun.
- 3. It's My Body** -- Teach your children they have the right to say NO to any unwelcome, uncomfortable, or confusing touch or actions by others.
- 4. Tell a Trusted Adult** -- Teach your children to TELL a trusted adult -- parent, guardian, teacher, etc. -- if anyone or anything makes them feel scared, uncomfortable or confused.

The Got 2B Safe! program is part of Honeywell Hometown Solutions, the company's corporate citizenship initiative.



Teacher receives classroom makeover for teaching safety skills

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http://www.keyetv.com/content/news/topnews/story.aspx?content_id=0e050699-2621-489d-b909-f95d7a4f16bc

An Austin teacher is being rewarded for her dedication to child safety. The first grade teacher at Metz Elementary in East Austin is being recognized for her commitment to keeping children safer from abduction and sexual exploitation.

Wednesday morning Jennifer Atkinson will showoff the \$10,000 classroom makeover donated by Honeywell and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. The classroom revamp and technology makeover includes a total redesign of the classroom. Atkinson chose a Texas theme for the redesign.

The first grade teacher was chosen after a rigorous application process involving teachers from across the country. This is the third annual Got 2B Safe! Awards Program. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, 797,500 children younger than 18 were reported missing during the one-year period of time studied. The Got 2B Safe! Awards Program recognizes teachers committed to keeping children safer from abduction and sexual exploitation. Honeywell and NCMEC named 105 winners from 30 states, including five Grand Prize winners.