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The Star-Ledger

Teacher a safe bet to protect students - NEIGHBORS

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July 29, 2007

* Name: David Campbell

* Age: 39

* Residence: Dumont

* Career: Campbell has been a teacher for 14 years, 13 of them spent teaching 3rd grade at the James Caldwell Elementary School in Springfield.

* Upholding Values: For the second year in a row, Campbell has been honored by Honeywell's Got 2B Safe! Award Program - last year, he won the grand prize, a \$10,000 classroom make-over, and this year, the first prize, a \$500 gift certificate - for his outstanding dedication to protecting his students from outside dangers by arming them with knowledge.

The Got 2B Safe! program - the result of a partnership between Honeywell's and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children - has existed since 2004, and the awards program bearing the same name was executed one year later.

Valerie Sorge, a specialist at Honeywell's, said that this approach to preparing children is unique.

"As much as the authorities are good with handling cases of missing children, there wasn't much information out there on how to prevent these things from happening," she said. "Talking about abduction, though, is not a comfortable conversation - that's why this is so important."

Even though close to a thousand teachers applied the past two years, according to Sorge, Campbell is the only applicant to win something both times.

"He has truly taken the lessons, and implemented them into his own curriculum in a meaningful way," she said. "When it develops within a classroom like that, the message is getting to children."

In this year's award-winning essay, Campbell said he would split the children into four groups, based upon the four Got 2B Safe! Rules - It's My Body, Go With a Friend, Tell a Trusted Adult, and Check First - and have the children first discuss terms and draw cartoons depicting good and bad scenarios, then have them teach the other groups what they had learned through their work.

* Using What You're Given: Though he won classroom make-over last year, Campbell plans to put all of his prize money toward improving his classroom further - he spoke of replenishing

supplies, purchasing comfier chairs for some computer stations, and buying a scanner for classroom use.

Though these improvements are important, they are not paramount to Campbell - he said that the children are having fun learning these important lessons, which is far more important.

Sorge feels that these rewards are very meaningful, however.

"Asking teachers to implement this program is a great concept, but they need the tools to do it," she said. "The money is not arbitrary - it's our way of saying thank you."

* The Importance of Safety: Campbell has dedicated himself to spreading the message of the four rules because he feels third grade marks a turning point in child development.

"I think third grade kids start to recognize the world around them, so they shouldn't be oblivious to their surroundings - the rules help them understand that they have to look at situations with a strategy to keep themselves safe."

* Family: Campbell has been married to his wife, Liz, for 11 years. They have two children - Carley, 6, and Dillon, 4.

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