

CCAT teacher awarded first prize for Got 2B Safe! contest

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JoAnn Stefen, a teacher at Charter Conservatory for Liberal Arts and Technology, recently won first prize in the Got 2B Safe! contest sponsored by Honeywell and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

Because of her commitment to keeping children safer from abduction and sexual exploitation, Ms. Stefen will receive \$500 worth of school supplies. Teachers submitted a lesson plan or essay demonstrating how they taught the "Got 2B Safe! Four Rules."

The program recognizes teachers committed to keeping children safer from abduction and sexual exploitation. This year, the program will honor 105 teachers from 33 states, including five grand prize winners who created effective techniques to teach children the important safety rules.

"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."

In 2003, Honeywell and NCMEC created the Got 2B Safe! Program to arm teachers, parents, and children with vital child safety skills. This year, the five Grand Prize winners will receive a free classroom makeover from a professional designer valued at \$10,000.

One hundred first prize winners, including Stefen, will receive \$500 worth of school supplies.

Teachers submitted a lesson plan or essay demonstrating how they taught the Got 2B Safe! Four Rules.

The Got 2B Safe! Program provides four simple rules for children to follow with the help of their families and teachers. Additional information is available at www.got2bsafe.com.

The first rule is "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.

The second rule is "Go With a Friend" — Simple and straightforward; never go anywhere alone. Being with another person in public is safer and more fun.

The third rule is "It's My Body" — Teach children they have the right to say NO to any unwelcome, uncomfortable, or confusing touch or actions by others.

The final rule is "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.