

Easley resident wins award for teaching students about safety

By Nathan DiBagno
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Palmetto Middle School teacher and Easley resident Susan Schultheis was one of 105 teachers in the nation to be honored for the way she teaches her students about safety. Honeywell (HON) and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) partnered to create the Got2Bsafe Award Program and awarded her a \$500 Staples gift certificate for a 100-word essay about how she teaches safety. One hundred teachers around the nation received the \$500 Staples gift certificate, while the five top five grand prize winners received free classroom makeovers valued at about \$10,000 from a professional designer.

“It is critically important that we do everything we can to protect our nation’s children from abduction and exploitation,” said Tom Buckmaster, president of Honeywell Hometown Solutions in a press release. “Honeywell has a longstanding 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.”

Schultheis, who teaches special education students, said that although the Got2Bsafe! program that she used and received the reward from was geared toward third- and fourth-grade students, it was also appropriate for her students.

“I knew it would be a perfect target for our students,” she said.

She said she feels passionate about teaching safety because the special education students tend to be very trustworthy – even when they shouldn’t be.

“In so many situations children with special needs aren’t able to tell someone that something’s going wrong, and they’re taken advantage of.”

Schlutheis began using the Got 2B Safe! curriculum last year, and liked it so much she plans to use it again this year.

According to its Web site, Got 2B Safe! materials have reach 72,000 schools and about 5 million students every year.

Honeywell (HON) and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) have partnered to create “Got 2B Safe! Think Smart and Take Charge,” an abduction prevention program targeted to elementary students, according to its Web site.

For more information about the safety program, visit its Web site at www.got2bsafe.com.