



Link to PACE from Danvers Schools Website:

www.danvers.mec.edu

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February 1, 2008

1. **WELCOME! Introductions and Announcements**

Introductions

Meeting Schedule for 2007-08: March 7, April 4, May 2

2. **TODAY'S TOPIC: Technology in the Schools and Internet Safety**

Presented by principal Mark Ekster and Andrea Kupps.

A. Danvers Public School Web Page

A brief review of the history of Danvers Public Schools web site was given. Currently the site is hosted by the Merrimack Education Center, which charges no fees for storage space (it works with the internet service provider), and provides templates for web pages.

The site was extensively modified over the summer. All tabbed headings remain the same no matter where one goes in the site, so it's easy to get back to the beginning. The main links run across the top of the page, and the secondary links down the left.

Continuously updated information includes:

- School committee meeting agendas and minutes
- Holten-Richmond Middle School nurse's notes
- School calendars per school

As much as possible, the technology coordinators include information from individual schools. They would like to increase use by the elementary schools, including the PACs, in particular.

Parent suggestion: change the web page names to the standard ".k12.edu" web page. While awaiting printing of new business cards etc., redirect the .mec.edu web pages to the new ones.

B. Internet Safety

Internet safety is covered briefly in the 5th grade orientation, and then extensively in the middle school program. Students are taught which information should remain off the Internet entirely. Activities include demonstrating how viruses and worms are distributed, focusing on how easy it is to spread and receive them unknowingly.

Resources for Internet Safety include:

- <http://www.netsmartz.org>
- http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/family/net_safety.html
- <http://safekids.com/>
- <http://www.wiredsafety.org>
- <http://isafe.org>

Recommended viewing: Frontline: Growing Up Online

- <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/kidsonline/etc/links.html>

This program takes about an hour and is very educational.

Discussion centered on MySpace and FacePage web sites. Children continue to put information on them which makes themselves targets for crimes. Education must continue to focus on safety. However, the sites persist because they do have value: they are easy ways to maintain contact with people with similar interests (such as clubs) or backgrounds (such as alumni organizations).

3. **Updates and Information**

School Committee

DEEP

Remember the DEEP Ball on March 15, 2008.

High School Project

Danvers still awaits a facility assessment by the MSBA and the town's architects. A final decision on whether we get state funding or not is expected in the spring, but no date is definite.

We will likely have a special town meeting to vote on funding for the school, as the MSBA timeline will probably prevent any action in the regular May meeting.

4. **Next Month: Full-Day Kindergarten**

5. **Action for PACE Representatives**

Report back on this agenda to your PAC meeting, especially guest speakers and special events.

Circulate a sign-up sheet for e-mail addresses; e-mail to Jonell or Al or bring to the next meeting.

Please send people to check out the Danvers Public Schools website (with links to PACE agendas, schedules, meeting notes): www.danvers.mec.edu

Important Addresses:

Holten Richmond Memorial Fund (to support the Betty Allen Library):

Holten-Richmond Memorial Fund

c/o DEEP

P.O. Box 387

Danvers, MA 01923

DEEP Memberships:

P.o. Box 287

Danvers, MA 01923