"PLAY IT SAFE IN CYBERSPACE" LAUNCHED TO EDUCATE CHILDREN ON SOFTWARE PIRACY

The Business Software Alliance (BSA) and Weekly Reader have launched "Play it Safe in Cyberspace," a free curriculum to help elementary and middle school students become better online citizens, understand cyber ethics, piracy and proper software use. BSA believes there is a significant need for cyber education in America, beginning with teaching young people to value creativity, respect intellectual property and practice responsible computer behavior. "Play it Safe in Cyberspace," is targeted at children in grades 3 through 8 and is based on national teaching standards, supplements teacher lesson plans by introducing classroom activities and discussions focused on why creativity and copyright law matter, and how the $11 billion software piracy problem affects others. The curriculum will be distributed to 25,000 schools in select regions and to thousands more schools early in 2003. The program is also being introduced in Canada. Included in the kit are tips for teachers and parents, classroom activities, worksheets, games and a poster.

The goal of BSA is to educate computer users on software copyrights and cyber security. BSA members include Adobe, Apple Computer, Autodesk, Bentley Systems, Borland, CNC Software/Mastercam, Compaq, Dell, Entrust, IBM, Intel, Intuit, Macromedia, Microsoft, Network Associates, Novell, Sybase, Symantec and Unigraphics Solutions (EDS). For more information, contact Debbi Bauman at BSA, phone (202)530-5132 or email debbib@bsa.org. You may also visit http://www.bsa.org/usa/

TEACHER WEB SITES CONTINUE TO RISE

Homestead Technologies, Inc., a leading provider of Web site building services, has released a study that reveals the widespread use of Web sites by teachers and anticipates the rapid spread of classroom Web sites over the next five years. According to the Homestead 2002 Classroom Web Site Study, 42% of teachers already have a Web site, while 71% believe that most will have a Web site to assist with their teaching within five years.

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Among the teachers that currently have a Web site, communication with students was stated as the most popular use (73%), followed by communication with parents (51%). The study also examined how teachers benefit from their Web sites. The teachers said that a classroom Web site saves them time (52%), helps them meet technology standards (41%), enables them to teach about technology (27%) and increases interest in their jobs (21%).

Homestead has launched a new site to assist teachers in building their Web sites. The site contains advice and tips for creating a classroom Web site as well as profiles of a number of innovative teachers around the country who are successfully using the Internet to improve their teaching. Homestead provides consumers with a complete, non-technical way to build and maintain an Internet presence on their own. Homestead has won accolades from Forbes Magazine, PC Magazine, PC World and CNet, among others. For more information, visit http://classrooms.homestead.com

DrexelOne Mobile Links Students with University Information Almost Anywhere

Drexel University has launched the first mobile web portal service for students, enabling them to retrieve a range of information, including their grades, via virtually any web-enabled handheld devices from anywhere in the world. The new service is called DrexelOne Mobile, and students can retrieve campus news and personal announcements, check their grades or search the University directory using their choice of cellular phones, newer BlackBerries, Palm compatibles, PocketPCs and other web-enabled devices.

Access to DrexelOne Mobile is made through the same network connections as a cellular phone, pager or notebook computer. DrexelOne Mobile is linked to the University's administrative systems, which include admissions, registration, human resources and finance. The service is being developed and implemented by Drexel's Office of Information Resources and Technology, headed by vice president and chief information officer Dr. John A. Bielec. A demonstration of DrexelOne Mobile can be found at www.drexel.edu.