



Cyber social clubs may be threats to your children



By Dr. John Folks, Superintendent

Recently, a relatively new phenomenon – social networking websites, such as MySpace.com – has become a major concern for parents, educators, and law enforcement officials. This column's purpose is to address concerns you may have about these types of sites

and to offer ideas for how we can work together to protect our children from harm when using these sites – in other words, help our children “be social, but be safe.”

The increasing use of social networking sites, particularly by our middle school and high school students, has the potential to put them in danger. Unwanted contacts from strangers pose a new digital-age threat, as students post pictures and information to network with existing friends and meet new friends. Students may share information directly, not thinking about the implications of predators – or they may inadvertently share information via a photo in front of their school or a photo with a school jersey or spirit attire.

To help protect your child from the dangers of social networking, Northside ISD has taken the following steps:

- ▶ Offering a web resource, **Social Networking Web Warning**, at www.nisd.net/webwarning, to help educate parents about the risks associated with social networking sites. This site shares online news articles and video clips on this hot topic, as well as an online collection of parental advice, tips, and guidelines.
- ▶ Continuing to block social networking sites such as MySpace from NISD computers.
- ▶ Adding a social networking component to the Student Acceptable Use training
- ▶ Discussing these issues at parent and community meetings.

The Internet continues to be a great resource for education, and the District's instructional use of technology includes numerous safeguards, limitations, and parameters for student safety. As we have observed students' rising interest in technology as a part of their personal lives, we believe communicating with District parents about potential risks and possible safeguards is a responsible step in protecting our students. I encourage you to explore the website referenced above. ■

A presidential moment



■ **Congratulations** — Northside high school Senior Class Presidents will lead over 4,000 graduates across the stage when graduation ceremonies start at the end of this month.

This year's Senior Class Presidents are (back row, l-r): Grant Duncan, Communications Arts High School; Kevin Coppola, Clark

High School; Curtis Montalbo, O'Connor High School; Alexandra Arcuri, Marshall High School. (Front row, l-r): Kimberly Guel, Taft High School; Lauren Garcia, Warren High School; Lisa Y. Hernandez, Holmes High School; Aisha Hakeem, Health Careers High School; and Samantha Amador, Jay High School.



2006 High School Graduations

Tuesday, May 30 Marshall HS, Alamodome, 8 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 31 Health Careers HS, Paul Taylor Field House, 7:30 p.m.
 Thursday, June 1 O'Connor HS, Alamodome, 8 p.m.
 Friday, June 2 Excel Academy, Paul Taylor Field House, 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday, June 3, Taft/Communications Arts HS, Alamodome, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, June 3 Jay HS, Alamodome, 1 p.m.
 Saturday, June 3 Warren HS, Alamodome, 4:30 p.m.
 Saturday, June 3 Holmes/Business Careers HS, Alamodome, 8 p.m.
 Monday, June 5 Clark HS, Alamodome, 8 p.m.

NISD hopes to secure the Alamodome again in 2007. Please check the website in the fall for updates.