



News Release

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Surrey School District establishes web site to promote student involvement in school and district safety

The Surrey School District has launched the “PSST” (Protecting Surrey Schools Together) web site at www.psst-bc.ca, with support from the Surrey RCMP. The web site is a resource for students to confidentially share or obtain information about issues that concern them and support the safety and security of their school.

“Our board is proud to initiate a school district web site that is believed to be the first of its kind in Canada,” says Surrey School Board chair Shawn Wilson. “Most young people are comfortable and accustomed to using the Internet to communicate and the psst-bc.ca web site provides an opportunity for students to connect with each other and with others who can answer their questions or help address their concerns.”

Students using the site are assured of anonymity. The site includes a “tip box” so students can report information about incidents that concern them.

The site features a question and answer forum so students can ask anonymously for information regarding any sensitive topic. Information provided to students will be candid and non-preaching, with links wherever possible to independent sources and experts – whether medical or legal authorities, or music-related web sites. Live chats will be scheduled from time-to-time involving experts and authorities in various fields from education to entertainment, and policing to politics.

“Our students take pride in their schools and they have a sense of accountability and social responsibility,” says Surrey School District manager of safe schools, Theresa Campbell. “This site provides a venue for students to be involved in and contribute to keeping our schools safe. Some students may feel it risky to talk to someone in person about some issues, particularly within their own school. As a district web site, students will feel more comfortable in doing the right thing.”

Beyond safety-related issues, the site provides an opportunity for young writers to practice their craft and post stories publicly. Surrey students will participate in the design and content of the site on an ongoing basis to promote student ownership, relevancy and participation. The site also has interactive and feedback components to keep content topical.

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