

Marseilles Elementary School District 150

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Dear Parents & Guardians:

This year the Marseilles Elementary School District curriculum will continue to include Erin's Law. In January 2013, Governor Pat Quinn adopted Erin's Law as a state-mandated sexual abuse prevention education program for students in elementary schools. Based on this law, all students in grades PreK-8 are required to participate in this program.

In accordance with the law, younger students in our district will learn that safe touches are those that make us feel happy as well as good inside and out. A hug from someone we love, a high five and holding hands are examples of safe touches. Unsafe touches are ones that are harmful. They make us feel sad, confused or scared. Children will practice saying "NO" as well as running away and telling an adult they trust when someone tries to touch them in an unsafe way.

In your child's class, we will discuss private parts, appropriate and inappropriate touching, safe and unsafe secrets, and identifying people of trust. The curriculum will vary from grade-to-grade; however, it will be developmentally appropriate per grade level with older students discussing sexual assault, sexting, etc. Trained professionals from ADV SAS will deliver this material in a manner suitable to our students.

It is estimated that about 90% of abusers are known to the child and include relatives, neighbors, babysitters and family acquaintances. Listed below are a few items that you can discuss with your child in order to help keep them safe.

- Tell your child to trust his or her "gut" instincts. If someone acts in a way that makes them uncomfortable or wants to play inappropriate games, tell your child to get away from that person and tell you.
- Make sure your child knows that he/she should always tell you about people who try to touch him/her in a way he/she does not like.
- Practice with your child saying "NO" assertively and running away.
- Teach your child to always be with a buddy when on the playground, walking home from school or walking from one house to another in the neighborhood.
- Make sure your child knows that he or she needs permission before going places.
- In the event something happens to you, have a code word that is a signal between you and your child that your designated adult is safe.

For further information regarding Erin's Law please visit <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/reports/erins-law-final0512.pdf>. If you have questions regarding any of this information, please feel free to contact our principal, Mrs. Alderman our school counsellor or I can be reached at the district office.

Sincerely,

Brenda Donahue - Superintendent