

NEWS RELEASE

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Internet safety top priority for Gateway parents

A year ago, Gateway Middle School parents and staff members took the *Qwest Online Safety Challenge* in massive numbers. Gateway was one of only 20 Washington schools with the highest percentage of parents and guardians who took the online certification by the March 31, 2007 deadline. Not only did they learn a thing or two about online safety do's and don'ts, but their efforts resulted in a \$1,000 grant from Qwest. In May, Gateway PTSA leaders met with Kim Lynch, Qwest's Washington region local markets manager, who gave them the great news.

Gateway PTSA continues to bring Internet safety information to parents and educators. Together with Qwest and Johnston Wells Public Relations, Gateway PTSA welcomes a highly respected internet safety expert to the school to visit with parents at the Oct. 18, 2007 PTSA meeting. Starting at 6:30 p.m. in the school library, Dr. Linda Young will address any district parent on the topic of Understanding Your Child's Virtual World. Parents and educators from all Everett School District schools are invited to attend.

Young is a family therapist specializing in technology and communication, a senior staff psychologist at Seattle University and spokesperson for Qwest's online safety program. Her program is geared toward parents of middle and elementary students. Dr. Young discusses the positives and negatives of technology and Internet usage, how it's impacting friendships and family and how parents can start a conversation with their children.

More information about Dr. Young and Qwest's online safety program is on the [Incredible Internet Web site](#). Dr. Young's work is linked from the online safety tab in the blue line at the top of the page. You can also take the *Qwest Online Safety Challenge* on that Web site.

Gateway PTSA thanks Qwest Communications for their continued partnership in making the Internet and technology safe for all Gateway Middle School students and families.