

The Parent Page



Life Education Centers
Pledge for Life Partnership



www.kan-i-help.org

Celebrating Wise Highs ... Choices for a Lifetime

Winter 2010

Walking While Texting: Should There Be a Law?

by *Kathy McManus for The Responsibility Project*

Exactly 40 years after a man first stepped on the moon, a walking, texting teenager took another giant leap forward and stepped into an open manhole, becoming the latest case-study of responsibility in America.

City workers in Staten Island, New York had just removed the manhole cover but hadn't yet secured the area when a 15-year-old girl—focused on a phone—walked right in. "I felt this big drop," she said. "It was four or five feet. It was very painful." Apologetic workers helped the teen out of the hole, and doctors checked her scrapes before pronouncing her not seriously injured.



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Texting Etiquette: Simple Rules to Teach Your Children

Source: *About.com*

With texting on the rise, kids today need to know that electronic messaging cannot take the place of face-to-face communication. In fact, we adults may need to be reminded of that as well. Below are a few finer points of text etiquette to review with your child:

- Text messaging shouldn't take the place of one-on-one interaction with friends.
- Text messages should be short and-to-the-point. If a "conversation" goes on and on, pick-up the phone and continue the conversation in that way.

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14th Annual Family Fun-a-thon

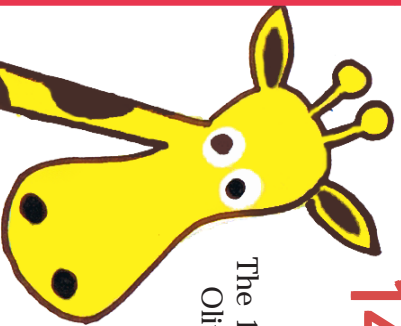
This year's event is sure to be a blast!

The 14th Annual Family Fun-a-thon will be from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, February 14 at Olivet Nazarene University.

Registrations are now being taken for the **3 on 3 basketball event** and a **Stuff & Fluff pre-clinic** sponsored by Bears 2 You. For cost and additional details, see registration forms on pgs. 3 and 4. Additional forms also can be downloaded at www.i-kan.org or by calling (815) 936-4606.

Some of the additional activities not requiring registration include seated massages & manicures with students from the Kankakee Area Career Center, arts and crafts with Limestone & Bradley libraries and KC-CASA, the Kankakee Fire Department's obstacle course, BTPD Panda House, Make Your Own Tasty Science Demo, face painting and games for the whole family.

General admission is \$5; children under 3 are free. Proceeds support the I-KAN Regional Office of Education's Life Education programs. To learn more, call the Pledge for Life Partnership at 936-4606.



Walking while texting ... continued

The girl's mother declared she would sue. "Oh my god, it was putrid," she said. "One of her sneakers is still down there."

The latest tale of WWVT—walking while texting—struck a nerve with those wondering where the all-thumbs effect of constant texting is leading. "This girl was just plain dumb. She should have been watching where she was going," was typical of responses on blogs and message boards. "Open up all the manholes and send all the texting idiots into them," said another. Others blamed the work crew. "No barriers, no tape, no cones = Negligence," one said.

Teen texting has exploded. According to a recent study, American teenagers send and receive an average of 2,272 text messages each month—almost 80 messages a day. WWVT incidents are on the rise as well. Two weeks before the manhole mishap, an Indiana teen crossing a road while texting was struck and killed by a car. In England, a 17-year-old walking while texting stepped straight into the path of a waiting thief who stole his phone.

"The deep, black hole of responsibility," is how a newspaper editorial summed up the tumbling manhole texting incident, while posing the obvious next question: "Do we need 'protect society from itself' laws?"

Who do you think is responsible for the accident? The folks at Liberty Mutual's Responsibility Project want to know. To tell them or to read other thought provoking articles, log on at www.responsibilityproject.com.

PS: You also may want to remind your kids to pay attention to what they're doing, too.



www.kan-i-help.org

KAN-I-HELP is a community information system that helps residents of Iroquois and Kankakee county find contact information for local government agencies, publicly financed human services and non-profit organizations. More than 700 agencies are listed on the website and a printed directory is available for \$10. For More information, call (815) 936-4606.

Text etiquette ... continued

- Make sure you realize that text messages can be easily misunderstood because the recipient of the message can't see your facial expressions or hear your tone of voice.
 - Never give bad news in a text message.
 - Refrain from texting while in an argument. Try to work things out in person or over the phone.
 - Do not text one friend while spending time with another. That's rude and can cause hurt feelings.
 - We are all responsible for what we text to other people. Teach your child to refrain from gossiping about others and being unkind in general.
 - It's also bad manners to text in class, at church, at dinner, at the movies, at a friend's birthday party, at a funeral, or in other public settings. The same applies if your family is going out for a nice meal or is involved in a family activity together.
 - Do NOT text while doing other activities that require full attention like bike riding, skate boarding, or in situations where you need to be aware of what is going on.
 - As of January 1, 2010 it is illegal to text while driving in the state of Illinois.
- Remember, texting should be regarded as a privilege. Remind your child that part of the responsibility of using a cell phone is following cell phone etiquette rules.



The Illinois Text Messaging Ban

Effective January 1, 2010, a person may not operate a motor vehicle on a roadway while using an electronic communication device to compose, send or read an electronic message. **However, a driver may use an electronic communication device in hands-free or voice-activated mode.** Fines begin at \$75. For more information visit www.drivinglaws.org/ill.



Iroquois - Kankakee
Regional Office of Education

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Build YOUR OWN



**Stuff & Fluff Pre-Clinic
for Kids of All Ages**
Children 5 and under must be accompanied by an adult.
12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, February 14
McHie Arena at Olivet Nazarene University

Harold's friend, Jocko.

Build the Life Education Center's loveable

Jocko the Monkey

Kits provided by Bears 2 You -- Making Smiles Grow!

Cost for clinic participants is \$15, which includes the kit and admittance to the Family Fun-a-thon beginning immediately after the clinic.

Register early! Seating is limited. Registration deadline is February 1, 2010. Additional registration forms available at www.i-kan.org. For more information call the Pledge for Life Partnership at (815) 936-4606.



All proceeds benefit the Life Education programs. To register, complete the form below and mail to:
The Pledge for Life Partnership, 189 E. Court Street, Suite 403, Kankakee, IL 60901.

Registration Form

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Name: _____ | Age: _____ | Grade: _____ |
| Parent or Guardian's name: _____ | Telephone: _____ | |
| Address: _____ | | |
| City: _____ | State: _____ | Zip: _____ |
| _____ Enclosed is my check for \$15. | | |

Parental Consent: In consideration of the acceptance of this entry, I, on behalf of my child, his/her heirs, executors, administrators and assignees do hereby waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages he/she has or may have against the organizers of this event, its principals, its employees, all sponsors and their representatives, and any and all claims of damages, demands, actions whatsoever in any manner, as a result of his/her participation in this event. I attest and verify that my child is physically fit and has not been advised otherwise by a qualifying medical person. Further, I hereby grant full permission to any and all of the foregoing to use my child's likeness in any broadcast, telecast, video or

Parent or guardian signature(s): _____

Date: _____

3-on-3 Basketball Tournament



Noon to 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 14th, 2010

In McHie Arena @ Olivet Nazarene University

For 5th – 6th Grade and 7th – 8th Grade Boys and Girls

Double Elimination – Every team will play at least two games!

The cost is \$40 for a team of 3-4 players. All players on the same team must qualify for the same bracket. Fee also includes admittance for each player to the Pledge for Life Partnership's 14th Annual Family Fun-a-thon. **Spectator entrance fee is \$5**, which also includes admittance to the Family Fun-a-thon. Gym shoes are required!

Registration is limited! Teams will be accepted on a first come basis! The registration deadline is Friday, January 29, 2010 (or until the 40 team slots have been filled.)

To register, complete this form and mail it with your payment to the Pledge for Life Partnership, 189 East Court Street, Suite 403, Kankakee, IL 60901 or call Pledge for Life at (815) 936-4606

Team Name: _____ Team Captain: _____ (Captains should be a team member.)

School Name: _____ Team Bracket: Boys 5th-6th Grade Girls 5th-6th Grade Boys 7th-8th Grade Girls 7th-8th Grade

Parental Consent: In consideration of the acceptance of this entry, I, on behalf of my child, his/her heirs, executors, administrators and assignees, do hereby waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages he/she has or may have against the organizers of this event, its principals, its employees, all sponsors and their representatives, and any and all claims of damages, demands, actions whatsoever in any manner, as a result of his/her participation in this event. I attest and verify that my child is physically fit and has not been advised otherwise by a qualified medical person. Further, I hereby grant full permission to any and all of the foregoing to use my child's likeness in any broadcast, telecast, video or print media of the event without compensation to him/her.

| Player's Name (PRINT CLEARLY) | | Mailing Address (Print Clearly – we mail out your game time and bracket information) | | Phone Number(s) | Boy or Girl | Grade | Parent/Guardian Name/Signature Parent or guardian signature is required for EVERY team member listed! |
|-------------------------------|------------------|---|-----------|-----------------|-------------|-------|--|
| 1 | Mailing Address: | | | | | | Print name |
| | City | Zip | Signature | | | | |
| 2 | Mailing Address: | | | | | | Print name |
| | City | Zip | Signature | | | | |
| 3 | Mailing Address: | | | | | | Print name |
| | City | Zip | Signature | | | | |
| 4 | Mailing Address: | | | | | | Print name |
| | City | Zip | Signature | | | | |