

December 11, 2009

Dear K-2 Parents and Guardians:

Your children will have the opportunity to begin or to continue the curriculum being offered through Martha's Vineyard Community Services called "Talking About Touching: A Personal Safety Curriculum". The Chilmark School, Oak Bluffs School, Vineyard Haven School and Charter School have also implemented this curriculum and are very pleased with the program. Our K-2 teachers were given a presentation, last year, by Community Services, which was age appropriate and well received by our staff.

This curriculum will be presented by Ms. Elizabeth Jims, from Martha's Vineyard Community Services, who is a trained educator for this program. We will utilize our Health Education class time to implement this curriculum.

The program is divided into three units:

- * **Personal Safety:** This unit covers bike, fire, telephone, car, gun and stranger safety. The children will be taught rules that will keep them safe.
- * **Touching Safety:** This unit focuses on teaching the children to identify unsafe or unwanted touches. These include unwanted pushing, hitting, kicking, poking, bullying as well as inappropriate touch to their private body parts. They are taught how to say "no", get away, always tell an adult, and never to keep it a secret.
- * **Assertiveness and Support:** This unit gives children a chance to practice getting out of unsafe situations. It also teaches them how to ask an adult for help at home or at school, if they need it.

Every few weeks, we will send you information about what the kids have learned, so you are well informed along the way. We will also have a Parent Information Night, facilitated by Ms. Marney Toole, Coordinator of the Martha's Vineyard Family Network. This presentation will take place on Tuesday, January 26, 2010, at 7:00 PM, in our library. Please feel free to come to the classes and be a part of this curriculum.

The first of approximately twelve lessons will begin on Tuesday, January 4, 2010. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 508-627-3316, ext. 206. If you do **not** want your child to participate in this curriculum, please sign the attached and return it to your child's teacher. We hope to continue to strengthen our home and school connection, in keeping our children safe!

Yours truly,

Sue Costello
Health Education Coordinator

Talking About Touching: A Personal Safety Curriculum

I do **not** wish for my child_____ to participate in
the Talking About Touching: A Personal Safety Curriculum, at the Edgartown School.