



STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

J.B. VAN HOLLEN
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Kevin M. St. John
Deputy Attorney General

Steven P. Means
Executive Assistant

114 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 7857
Madison, WI 53707-7857
608/266-1221
TTY 1-800-947-3529

January 10, 2012

Dear School Principal and 5th Grade Teacher:

Each year more than 1.3 million children are reported missing. Fortunately, most of these children return home safely. Sadly, many do not. Law enforcement, citizens and other children have been instrumental in keeping children safe and returning them home to their families, communities and schools. Every year the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) takes time to commemorate the valiant and unselfish acts of the many organizations and individuals who bring our missing children home. On May 25th, National Missing Children's Day, we pause to focus our attention on children who have been recovered as well as the children who are still missing.

Each year, the U.S. Department of Justice sponsors a national poster contest and announces the winner at the annual National Missing Children's Day Ceremony in Washington, DC. The winner of this national contest, along with his or her teacher and parents, is flown to Washington to attend this special ceremony. I invite you to join us in our efforts to educate children across the country about safety issues by giving your 5th grade students an opportunity to participate in this poster contest.

Wisconsin schools participating in the event will have the opportunity to submit their winning 5th grade poster for judging. The Wisconsin Department of Justice administers a Missing Children Clearinghouse, which coordinates efforts on behalf of Wisconsin's missing persons. Wisconsin's Clearinghouse for Missing & Exploited Children & Adults develops and coordinates the process for your **statewide** poster competition.

Completed posters should be sent to the Wisconsin Department of Justice, and addressed to:

Susan A. WhiteHorse, Manager
WI Clearinghouse for Missing & Exploited Children & Adults
Wisconsin Amber Alert Coordinator
17 West Main Street
Post Office Box 7857
Madison, WI 53707-7857

Each state's Missing Children Clearinghouse will then submit the single winning state poster to the U.S. Department of Justice for final judging. The national judging will take place in April 2012, and one national poster contest winner will be selected.

School Principal and 5th Grade Teacher
January 10, 2012

The theme for this year's poster contest is "Bring Our Missing Children Home." I suggest you use January 13, 2012, which is national AMBER Alert Awareness Day, as the starting point for your school's poster contest and classroom discussions. A complete packet of information relating to the poster contest can be found at: <http://www.ojdp.gov/programs/postercontest/index.html>.

The following materials are available for download to help you plan and execute the poster contest:

- Important Wisconsin poster contest dates
<http://www.doj.state.wi.us/news/files/poster-contest-2012.pdf>
- A fact sheet including poster contest rules and time frame
<http://www.doj.state.wi.us/news/files/poster-contest-fact-sheet-teachers-2012.pdf>
- An application form that must accompany each poster
<http://www.doj.state.wi.us/news/files/poster-contest-application-2012.pdf>
- A sample flyer that can be distributed to contest participants and displayed in the halls of your school <http://www.doj.state.wi.us/news/files/poster-contest-flyer-grade-5-2012.pdf>
- A sample certificate template that can be completed by your local school and distributed to each student who participates in the contest (instructions for completing mail merges are also contained on the website)
<http://www.doj.state.wi.us/news/files/poster-contest-certificate-2012.pdf>
- Thinking skills lesson plan and board game
<http://www.doj.state.wi.us/news/files/poster-contest-lesson-boardgame-2012.pdf>
- Poster contest brochure
<http://www.doj.state.wi.us/news/files/poster-contest-brochure-2012.pdf>

To encourage elementary school teachers to help their students learn how to be safe, Honeywell and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children launched the Got 2B Safe! Contest in 2005 where teachers were invited to submit brief lesson plans emphasizing Got 2B Safe's rules for personal safety. Information about this competition, along with lesson plans created by teachers themselves, can be found on the following web site: www.got2bsafe.com. I encourage you to take a look at these innovative and creative ideas and to use them in your own classroom setting.

I have sent a similar letter to the State Educational Directors/Superintendents announcing this contest.

School Principal and 5th Grade Teacher
January 10, 2012

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Darla Waldron of the Wisconsin Department of Justice at (608) 245-8952 or email at waldrondj@doj.state.wi.us. I hope that your school will join this exciting and important state and national competition.

Thank you for your assistance and support to better ensure the safety and security of children across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.B. Van Hollen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

J.B. VAN HOLLEN
Attorney General

JBV:SAW:ded