

Retired Investigator Discusses Child Safety

In January, retired Monroe County Sheriff's Investigator Patrick Crough gave a presentation on the topic of child predators. His presentation was sponsored by the District, the PTA, and Home School Associations, and will be followed up by a second presentation on March 22nd.

This well-attended event drew many parents, teachers, and childcare workers interested in learning more about this important topic. As Crough talked through the stages of how predators groom their victims, the picture became clear. These individuals attempt to gain trust, isolate their victims, get the victims to lie to adults, and then ultimately they close in on their prey. The horrible reality is that in most cases, the predator is someone your child already knows or has contact with, not a complete stranger.

So what should parents do? Crough suggests closely looking at the purpose of people in your child's life and network with other parents to determine what's happening when you're not around. Be active in your child's

life. Be wary of anyone who asks to be alone with your child. In the vast majority of cases, when an incident occurs, parents are shocked to learn of the perpetrator, because he/she is almost always a trusted member of their child's inner circle.

Crough has written a book on this topic, entitled, *The Serpents Among Us: How to Protect Your Children From Sexual Predators*. In it he describes case studies, how to recognize the actions of a potential predator, the signs that your child may be a victim, and most importantly, how to keep your child safe.

More information about the book and Crough's child advocacy organization is available at: www.millstonejustice.org.

The Penfield Central
School District And
The District PTAs And
HSAs Present:

Child Safety in Today's Society

**Tuesday, March 22, 2011
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

Bay Trail Auditorium

Retired Monroe County Sheriff's Investigator Patrick Crough will share his expertise about how to identify child predators and how to protect your children. This program is geared towards parents of students in grades 6-12; however, all parents and interested community members are welcome to attend. Please note that due to the content, this program is not intended for children.