(FRANKFORT, Ky.—) In celebration of Safe Schools Week, KASA AND The Center for Education Leadership are featuring the work of their School Safety Council.

“School Safety has always been an item on an administrator’s checklist, but it is never more important than today with social media, cell phones, advancing technology and other avenues for students to bully, harass or otherwise get themselves into trouble. This is one of the reasons that the KASA School Safety Council was assembled; with the intent to help administrator’s find solutions to the everyday safety issues that plague our schools,” KASA School Safety Council Chair and Principal of Hancock County High School Rick Lasley said.

According to the 2008–2009 School Crime Supplement (National Center for Education Statistics and Bureau of Justice Statistics) 28% of students in grades 6–12 experienced bullying nationwide. Further research reports that over 70% of young people have witnessed bullying in their schools; over 40% had witnessed bullying one or more times per week. Statistics show that bullying stops within 10 seconds of an intervention 57% of the time.

“Bullying manifests itself in the whole child, causing physical, emotional, and mental degradation. Students who are bullied are at higher risk for depression and substance abuse, and they are immediately affected in some cases by decreased academic performance, lowered self-esteem, and behavioral issues such as aggression and anxiety. We can't afford to ignore bullying in today’s schools,” KASA Deputy Director Rhonda Caldwell said.

According to Lasley, this is one reason the KASA membership created the School Safety Council. This year, the council has been charged with: providing the monthly Safety Focus 5, a monthly newsletter focusing exclusively on how school leaders can ensure safe school environments; working to find solutions and resources to help schools stop bullying; and providing methods for schools to improve school culture.

As an extension of the council’s mission, KASA is bringing nationwide expert Jodee Blanco as a featured presenter at their 2015 Annual Leadership Institute, July 15-17, 2015 in Louisville. The event is the largest annual event for school administrators in Kentucky.

To learn more about Kentucky Safe Schools Week, October 19-25, click here.

Sources and additional information:
www.americanspcc.org
www.jodeeblanco.com
www.kasa.org

In celebration of Safe Schools Week, the KASA School Safety Committee is sending bookmarks to members from the 2014 Student Art Contest, challenging participants to depict how they work to stop bullying in their schools. The bookmarks below won their age groups in the 2014 prompt: I Am A First Responder.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

2014 KASA Student Art Contest Winners: I Am A First Responder

From Top (L-R):
Kindergarten-2: Keeton Turner, Joe Harrison Carter Elementary, Monroe Co. Schools;
Grades 3-5: Briana Davis, Campbellsville Elementary, Campbellsville Ind. Schools;
Grades 6-8: Brittney Newman, South Floyd Middle, Floyd Co. Schools;
Grades 9-12: Saki Fujimura, Hopkinsville High, Christian Co. Schools