



RICHARD CORDRAY
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 17, 2009

Dear Ohioan,

On May 25, 1979, a 6-year-old boy from New York named Etan Patz leaves to catch a school bus. After turning around to wave to his mother, he is never seen again. This is every parent's nightmare.

Every year, the U.S. Department of Justice takes time to commemorate the valiant and unselfish acts of the many organizations and individuals who bring our missing children home. On May 25, 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.

We are asking all Ohio schools to participate in helping observe this day. We are encouraging each school to add this event to their calendar. I have included several ideas your school can utilize, or your school may wish to come up with something of their own.

Our main event in 2010 is *Coins for Kids*. Gage Farmer, a 2nd grader at Madison Rural Elementary School in London, Ohio, came up with this idea. He suggested containers be put in the schools and each child was asked to put one penny (or any designated amount) in the container every day. At the end of the campaign, which would run for approximately two or three weeks, the money should be sent to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to assist its search for missing children. Gage was extremely moved by the fact that there were more than 23,000 children that went missing in Ohio last year. "This makes me feel sad. I would like to help out," he said.

I have attached a few suggestions and we would welcome any additional ideas your school would like to submit. If you have any questions or comments, please call (614) 466-1711. Thank you for your time, and we hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Richard Cordray
Ohio Attorney General

enclosure

Ideas for National Missing Children's Day

- Coins for Kids –Sign up by emailing Vicki Germann at vicki.germann@ohioattorneygeneral.gov . Determine the dates this project would run. We would like for it to conclude around May 25. You can have a contest for the children to decorate a jar or can, and the winner could receive a small prize. The kids are asked to put a penny (or any designated amount) in the jar each day for the allotted time. Then the donation money is sent directly to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, Charles B. Wang International Children's Building, 699 Prince St., Alexandria, Va., 22314-3175.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's (NCMEC) mission is to help prevent child abduction and sexual exploitation; help find missing children; and assist victims of child abduction and sexual exploitation, their families, and the professionals who serve them. NCMEC was established in 1984 as a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization to provide services nationwide for families and professionals in the prevention of abducted, endangered and sexually exploited children.

- Balloon release – The older children research the missing children in Ohio and each name is put on a card with the date the child went missing. The cards are tied to the balloons and the children release them all at the same time.
- Safety Day – A representative of the Missing Children Clearinghouse, your local Police Department or Fire Department could speak on safety issues.
- A Walk in Remembrance – The children could walk around the school or track after discussing the missing children issues and what they can do to be safe.
- Bubbles of Hope -- have a bubble blowing day to remind the students of Ohio's missing children.
- Take 25- Take 25 minutes to heighten awareness about children's safety issues. You can visit www.take25.org for child safety information.

- ❖ Web sites of interest related to missing children:

- Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse
www.mcc.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
www.missingkids.com
- Association of Missing and Exploited Children Organizations
www.amecoinc.org