Dr. Tom Horton Joins Safe to Learn Advisory Council

Dr. Thomas (Tom) Horton, has joined the *Safe to Learn* Advisory Council, "I am thrilled to be a part of *Safe to Learn* because it is the responsible thing to do as an educator. Plus, educators work in schools, too, and the life we save may be our own. No one can walk away from an opportunity to help make learning safe and fun!"

Dr. Horton is a retired History Instructor from the Porter-Gaud School (Episcopal) in Charleston, South Carolina. He taught history there since 1986 and retired in June 2015 to begin a new chapter in his life as a full-time author.

Because of Dr. Horton's interest in history, he wrote a feature about the history of when school fire drills started in America. Dr. Tom Horton's <u>feature</u>, "1923 School Fire Gave Us Fire Codes," published in the Moultrie News told the story of how the tragedy at the Cleveland School in Camden, South Carolina. The incident brought so much attention to school fires that it became a catalyst for developing school fire drills and the creation of school fire prevention.

He reminds us the importance of fire drills, "Today when I hear teachers complain about the interruption of a fire drill; I think of the Cleveland Fire and of Ada Rosario Dolch's story of in her book, *Principles for Principals, Leading the Way to School Safety*. She had no way of knowing how all those drills prepared her and her staff to face the events of 9/11. I am thankful that we have come such a long way since 1923 and that so many principals and teachers are willing to invest the time to participate in drills and exercises to help keep our children be safe."

"Vigilance is the watchword for fire safety. Just as curriculum has evolved, just as school structures have changed in shape, we must continue to adapt to evolving situations."

Safe to Learn also features authors dedicated to school safety and the protection of our children. Their willingness to share personal lessons learned, have open discussions around difficult decisions allows us to learn from their lessons. Safe to Learn also features authors that inspire learning and literacy by sharing their skills with colorful stories of history; travel adventures; discovering the flavors of healthy cooking; as well as tales that may make you laugh or even cry.





Dr. Thomas Horton

Contact

Dr. Thomas (Tom) Horton

Email: eurohis1@bellsouth.net

South Carolina

If you would like to schedule an interview and do not hear from Dr. Horton, please contact Dee Beaugez, Founder of the *Safe to Learn* Community Project

Email: dee.beaugez@safetolearn.com

Contact Publisher – Dee Beaugez

Dolores E. Beaugez, MA President, Visual Imagry, Inc.

Washington State Cellular: (425) 213-0329 Office: (425) 219-4974

Email: dbeaugez@visual-imagry.com

&

Founder of the Safe to Learn Community Project

Email: dee.beaugez@safetolearn.com
Web Site: www.safetolearn.com

Safe to Learn Advisory Council:

<u>Dr. Tom Horton</u> Safe to Learn Advisory Council

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