

April 4, 2006

Dear Parent(s):

The safety and well-being of our students is the top priority for LISD. Therefore, we want to make you aware of a growing dangerous activity by students across the country. This letter is not meant to alarm you, but to inform you so you can take any precautionary steps with your children.

An alarming number of children are participating in what is commonly referred to as the *choking game* that has turned deadly for participants in numerous states. The activity, also referred to as *suffocation roulette*, *space monkey*, *pass-out* and *flatliner*, achieves a brief high or euphoric state by stopping the flow of oxygen to the brain. Sometimes children choke each other or themselves until the person passes out.

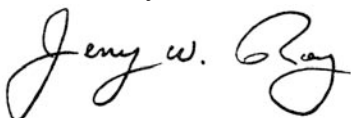
The danger becomes even greater when an object such as a belt, rope or tie is used by a child alone. If the child loses consciousness and there is no one to immediately release the pressure, they cannot help themselves. The child can suffer brain damage or death after a short amount of time.

Some warning signs that parents can look for are frequent headaches, unusual marks or bruising on the neck, bloodshot eyes, and ties or ropes tied in unusual ways.

Our staff has been alerted and will be watching and doing all we can to protect your children. We are sending this letter, not only to keep you informed, but to remind you to caution your children about this dangerous activity. Experts feel that some young people are fascinated by strange and dangerous play, and there can be an added attraction if it is not talked about.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Stephanie Gage, LISD's Director of Health Services, at 972-353-4962 or gages@lisd.net.

Sincerely,



Jerry Roy, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools